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Right to marry is not absolute, says Centre

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360 Indians evacuated from Sudan

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RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR

Xi makes first call to Zelensky in peace bid

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A PILLAR OF DEMOCRACY

The challenge of reviving a sense of fraternity

It is an essential virtue in this diverse nation

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WINNING WITH EASE

KKR's overall show too strong for RCB

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NEARBY

Over 16 lakh people added to voter list

BENGALURU
As many as 16,04,285 people, including around two lakh young electors, have been added to the voters' list after the publication of the final electoral rolls on January 5 and 15 in Karnataka. » Page 4

Congress to file complaint against Amit Shah

BELAGAVI
The Congress will complain to Election Commission of India against Union Home Minister Amit Shah for saying that there would be riots in Karnataka if the Congress came to power, party president Mallikarjun Kharge said on Wednesday.
» Page 4

10 jawans killed in blast by Maoists in Dantewada

Civilian driver also dead; District Reserve Guard team was returning from an anti-naxal operation launched on a tip-off, when their vehicle was blown up by an IED packed with 50 kg of explosives

Shubhomoy Sikdar
Vijaita Singh
RAIPUR/NEW DELHI

A crater was formed under the impact of the blast in Chhattisgarh's Dantewada on Wednesday. PTI

Ten security personnel returning from a counter-insurgency operation and a civilian driver were killed when Maoists blew up their vehicle in Dantewada of Chhattisgarh on Wednesday afternoon, according to the State police.

"Acting on a tip-off about Maoist presence in the area, an operation was conducted by the Deputy Inspector-General. As they were returning to the Dantewada headquarters, the [District Reserve Guard] team was targeted by the Maoists," said Inspector General of Police (Bastar Range) Sundarraj P.. The incident took place on the Aranpur Road.

The Dantewada headquarters is in the Bastar region, nearly 350 km from the State capital of Raipur.

A senior government official said the attack took place around 1.5 km from a police station and a security camp of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF). "After blowing up the vehicle with an IED [improvised explosive device], the Maoists exchanged fire with other policemen who were part of the convoy. Two other vehicles were following the affected vehicle. The Maoists managed to flee," the official said, adding that the IED was packed with over 50 kg of explosives. The blast was so powerful that a crater was formed on the road.

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BIGGEST ATTACK
» PAGE 8

Woman jumps off moving Rapido bike taxi to escape harassment

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The rider of a bike taxi in Bengaluru has been arrested after a woman alleged that she was sexually harassed by him, following which she jumped off the moving vehicle to escape.

The incident occurred in Yelahanka New Town police station limits on the night of April 21. The video of the victim jumping off the bike has gone viral on social media. The incident has again raised questions over the safety of women using bike taxi services, especially at night.

According to the police, the complainant booked a ride to Indiranagar at 11.10 p.m. After the rider picked her up, he allegedly started misbehaving with her.

CONTINUED ON
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Despite court stay, OTT platforms face pressure on content

Net alert

The two advisories issued by the I&B Ministry

- In February 2022, it told streaming platforms to ensure that details of a grievance officer are made publicly available on their websites
- On March 24, 2023, it told platforms to exercise "abundant precaution in ensuring that films and web-series... do not fall foul of the... Code of Ethics" that is laid out in the IT Rules

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

OTT, or over-the-top, streaming services such as Netflix and Amazon Prime Video are facing pressure to comply with the Information Technology Rules, 2021, and to exercise further restraint in streaming mature content. This is despite the fact that two High Courts have stayed provisions of the IT Rules, which require them to appoint a grievance officer and take down content when ordered to do so by a self-regulatory body.

Two advisories

The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (I&B) has issued two advisories on the issue: the first, in February 2022, told the platforms to ensure that a grievance officer's details are made publicly available on their websites.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 8

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2+2 Seater Corner Sofa
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A BG-BGE

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

An Iran court issues a penalty against the U.S. over 2017 attack

312.9 In $ million. The judgment was issued over a 2017 Islamic State-claimed attack on Tehran. The decision comes as tensions between Iran and the U.S. remain high over Tehran's nuclear programme. AP

The amount released by the govt. to PLI beneficiaries so far

2,874 In ₹ crore. The production linked incentive scheme was announced in 2020 with an outlay of ₹1.97 lakh crore. The amount was released with a majority of companies from sectors like electronics, telecom etc. PTI

The first batch of Indians evacuated from Sudan via ship

278 The first batch of Indians were evacuated from Sudan on board the naval ship INS Sumedha. Separately, the Navy's second ship, INS Teg, arrived in Port Sudan to bring back more Indians under mission 'Operation Kaveri'. PTI

The nursing colleges approved by the Union government

157 colleges. They were approved for establishment at a cost of ₹1,570 crore in co-location with existing medical colleges. The government plans to complete the project within two years with timelines laid out for every stage. PTI

The healthcare facilities closed in Sudan's Khartoum

60 In percentage. Only 16% of healthcare facilities are operating normally, the World Health Organization chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said on Wednesday. AFP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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The ambiguities in the nuclear liability law

What are the provisions of the Indian nuclear liability law? What does it say about supplier liability in the event of a nuclear accident? Why do some provisions in the law continue to make foreign companies wary of signing deals with India? What has the government said on the issue?

EXPLAINER

Diksha Munjal

The story so far:
The issues regarding India's nuclear liability law continue to hold up the more than a decade-old plan to build six nuclear power reactors in Maharashtra's Jaitapur, the world's biggest nuclear power generation site under consideration at present. An official at the French energy company Electricite de France (EDF), which submitted its techno-commercial offer for the construction of the 9,900 MW project two years ago, told *The Hindu* that the issues arising out of the liability law "would have to be solved before any contract" could be signed with India.

The energy question: Police officers guard the proposed site of the Nuclear Power Project near Jaitapur in 2011. AFP

THE GIST

The issues regarding India's nuclear liability law continue to hold up the more than a decade-old plan to build six nuclear power reactors in Maharashtra's Jaitapur, the world's biggest nuclear power generation site under consideration at present.

Laws on civil nuclear liability ensure that compensation is available to the victims for nuclear damage caused by a nuclear incident or disaster and set out who will be liable for those damages.

India for the first time introduced the concept of supplier liability over and above that of the operator's in its civil nuclear liability law.

What is the law governing nuclear liability in India?
Laws on civil nuclear liability ensure that compensation is available to the victims for nuclear damage caused by a nuclear incident or disaster and set out who will be liable for those damages. The international nuclear liability regime consists of multiple treaties and was strengthened after the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear accident. The umbrella Convention on Supplementary Compensation (CSC) was adopted in 1997 with the aim of establishing a minimum national compensation amount. The amount can further be increased through public funds, (to be made available by the contracting parties), should the national amount be insufficient to compensate the damage caused by a nuclear incident.

Even though India was a signatory to the CSC, Parliament ratified the convention only in 2016. To keep in line with the international convention, India enacted the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act (CLNDA) in 2010, to put in place a speedy compensation mechanism for victims of a nuclear accident. The CLNDA provides for strict and no-fault liability on the operator of the nuclear plant, where it will be held liable for damage regardless of any fault on its part. It also specifies the amount the operator will have to shell out in case of damage caused by an accident at ₹1,500 crore and requires the operator to cover liability through insurance or other financial security. In case the damage claims exceed ₹1,500 crore, the CLNDA expects the government to step in and has limited the government liability amount to the rupee equivalent of 300 million Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) or about ₹2,100 to ₹2,300 crore. The Act also specifies the limitations on the amount and time when action for compensation can be brought against the operator.

India currently has 22 nuclear reactors with over a dozen more projects planned. All the existing reactors are operated by the state-owned Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL).

What does the CLNDA say on supplier liability?
The international legal framework on civil nuclear liability, including the annex of the CSC is based on the central principle of exclusive liability of the operator of a nuclear installation and no other person. In the initial stages of the nuclear industry's development, foreign governments and the industry agreed that excessive liability claims against suppliers of nuclear equipment would make their business unviable and hinder the growth of nuclear energy, and it became an accepted practice for national laws of countries to channel nuclear liability to the operators of the plant with only some exceptions. Two other points of rationale were also stated while accepting the exclusive operator liability principle – one was to avoid legal complications in establishing separate liability in each case and the second was to make just one entity in the chain, that is the operator to take out insurance, instead of having suppliers, construction contractors and so on take out their own insurance.

Section 10 of the annex of the CSC lays down "only" two conditions under which the national law of a country may provide the operator with the "right of recourse", where they can extract liability from the supplier – one, if it is expressly agreed upon in the contract or two, if the nuclear incident "results from an act or omission done with intent to cause damage".

However, India, going beyond these two conditions, for the first time introduced the concept of supplier liability over and above that of the operator's in its civil nuclear liability law, the CLNDA. The architects of the law recognised that defective parts were partly responsible for historical incidents such as the Bhopal gas tragedy in 1984 and added the clause on supplier liability. So, apart from the contractual right of recourse or when "intent to cause damage" is established, the CLNDA has a Section 17(b) which states that the operator of the nuclear plant, after paying their share of compensation for damage in accordance with the Act, shall have the right of recourse where the "nuclear incident has resulted as a consequence of an act of supplier or his employee, which includes supply of equipment or material with patent or latent defects or sub-standard services".

Why is the supplier liability clause an issue in nuclear deals?
Foreign suppliers of nuclear equipment from countries as well as domestic suppliers have been wary of operationalising nuclear deals with India as it has the only law where suppliers can be asked to pay damages. Concerns about potentially getting exposed to unlimited liability under the CLNDA and ambiguity over how much insurance to set aside in case of damage claims have been sticking points for suppliers.

Suppliers have taken issue with two specific provisions in the law, Section 17(b) and Section 46. The latter clause goes against the Act's central purpose of serving as a special mechanism enforcing the channelling of liability to the operator to ensure prompt compensation for victims. Section 46 provides that nothing would prevent proceedings other than those which can be brought under the Act, to be brought against the operator. This is not uncommon, as it allows criminal liability to be pursued where applicable. However, in the absence of a comprehensive definition on the types of 'nuclear damage' being notified by the Central Government, Section 46 potentially allows civil liability claims to be brought against the operator and suppliers through other civil laws such as the law of tort. While liability for operators is capped by the CLNDA, this exposes suppliers to unlimited amounts of liability.

What are existing projects in India?
The Jaitapur nuclear project has been stuck for more than a decade – the original MoU was signed in 2009 with EDF's predecessor Areva. In 2016, EDF and NPCIL signed a revised MoU, and in 2018, the heads of both signed an agreement on the "industrial way forward" in the presence of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron. In 2020, the EDF submitted its techno-commercial offer for the construction of six nuclear power reactors but an EDF official told that the issue arising from India's nuclear liability law remains an item on the "agenda for both countries". Multiple rounds of talks have not yet led to a convergence on the issue. Other nuclear projects, including the nuclear project proposed in Kovvada, Andhra Pradesh, have also been stalled. Despite signing civil nuclear deals with a number of countries, including the U.S., France and Japan, the only foreign presence in India is that of Russia in Kudankulam – which predates the nuclear liability law.

What is the government's stand?
The central government has maintained that the Indian law is in consonance with the CSC. About Section 17(b), it said that the provision "permits" but "does not require" an operator to include in the contract or exercise the right to recourse.

However, legal experts have pointed out that a plain reading of Section 17 of the CLNDA suggests that Section 17(a), (b) and (c) are distinctive and separate, meaning even if the right to recourse against the supplier is not mentioned in the contract [as provided by Section 17 (a)], the other two clauses stand. This effectively means that the supplier can be sued if defective equipment provided or if it can be established that the damage resulted from an act of intent. Besides, it would not be sound public policy if the NPCIL, a government entity, entered into a contract with a supplier and waived its right to recourse in the contract, despite the fact that the law provides for such recourse.

Further, the Ministry of External Affairs had said that Parliament debates over the CLNDA had rejected amendments to include the supplier, and therefore the supplier cannot be liable under this kind of "class-action suit". However, private sector players were not convinced and experts point out that during a trial, what would be considered is what is enshrined in the statute and not what was discussed in Parliament.

As for the Jaitapur project, the government has said that the issues regarding the liability law would be resolved before French President Emmanuel Macron's visit to India, which was first scheduled for March but has been pushed to September.

Yogi makes his campaign debut from Mandya

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister's entry through Vokkaliga heartland is crucial, given his links with Adichunchanagiri Mutt

R. Krishna Kumar
MYSURU

The BJP yet again sounded its seriousness in making inroads into the Vokkaliga heartland of Mandya, with Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath making his maiden appearance in Karnataka to campaign for the 2023 Assembly elections with a roadshow and a public rally in Mandya on Wednesday.

Mandya is reckoned to be the bastion of the Janata Dal (Secular), which won all the seven Assembly seats in the 2018 elections, though the Congress has a formidable presence as well with the BJP a distant third.

Mr. Adityanath's entry into the Vokkaliga heartland also has a religious connotation, which the BJP is trying to exploit. The U.P. CM is an adherent to the Naath Sampradaya or tradition. Adichunchanagiri Mutt – with its headquarters at Adichunchanagiri in Nagamangala taluk of Mandya district and which enjoys a wide following among the Vokkaligas – has allegiance to the same sect.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath during a roadshow in Mandya on Wednesday.

This link of Adichunchanagiri Mutt with the Naath Sampradaya is being exploited by the BJP assiduously since the 2018 elections. Though it bore little result, there is no dilution of the BJP's long-term investment in highlighting the religious connection.

Mr. Adityanath held a roadshow and public rally in Mandya, seeking to impress upon voters the benefits of a "double-engine" government.

Safety and security

He said a double-engine government would ensure both security and prosperity. Drawing attention to Uttar Pradesh, Mr. Adityanath claimed that there had been no riot or communal clash in the last six years, which underscores the prevalence of security, and hence enabled growth and development.

He accused the Congress of introducing reservation on religious lines in Karnataka though it is unconstitutional and meant to appease organisations such as the Popular Front of India (PFI). "The country has already been divided once on religious lines. The BJP would not allow it to be repeated. While the BJP has banned the PFI, the Congress was supportive of the outfit," he alleged.

Sumalatha targets JD(S)

Sumalatha Ambareesh, Mandya MP, who recently announced her support to the BJP, was present at Mr. Adityanath's roadshow and public rally.

Addressing the public at the Silver Jubilee Park in Mandya, she said voters of the district had tried both the Janata Dal (Secular) and the Congress in the past. Though the JD(S) won all the seven seats in the 2018 elections, it was not reciprocated with similar developments as a result of which Mandya was languishing in neglect, she said.

As many as 98 central leaders of BJP take part in two-day drive to pep up party's poll campaign

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As many as 98 central leaders of the BJP took up a brisk campaign for the party in different areas of Karnataka as part of the two-day "mega drive" taken up by the party from Tuesday to pep up its Assembly election campaign.

Those who toured included Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, BJP national president J.P. Nadda, Union Ministers Rajnath Singh, Nirmala Sitharaman, Dharmendra Pradhan, Smriti Irani, and Mansukh Mandavia. Union Home Minister Amit Shah too held roadshows as part of the mega drive on Tuesday. The BJP appeared to be focusing heavily on the northern district of Belagavi which accounts for 18 of the total 224 Assembly seats in Karnataka as three leaders toured this district on Wednesday. Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan addressed public meetings in Hukkeri, Gokak, and Ramdurg of Belagavi while Mr. Rajnath Singh also addressed three conventions in different areas of Belagavi.

Meanwhile, Ms. Sitharaman interacted with prominent citizens in Kalaburagi district besides addressing a women's convention in Kalaburagi.

In addition to the Central leaders, over 150 prominent personalities from the State too were part of the mega drive that focussed both on macro- and micro-level approaches. While public meetings and roadshows were part of the macro-level approach, the micro-level strategies included door-to-door visits of party workers to seek votes. They also held street corner meetings at booth-level too.

From Page One

Rider arrested after woman jumps off moving bike taxi

According to the FIR, the accused snatched away the mobile phone of the woman on the pretext of checking the OTP and physically harassed her.

When the woman resisted and asked him to stop the vehicle, the rider drove in the opposite direction towards Doddaballapur instead of towards Indiranagar. Sensing trouble, the woman jumped off the moving bike and suffered injuries.

The next day, she filed a police complaint. The police tracked down the accused and arrested him.

The accused has been identified as Deepak Rao, 28, hailing from Hyderabad. According to the police, he has been working in Bengaluru for four-and-a-half years years. He started off as a food delivery executive and for the past two-and-a-half years, he has been working with a bike taxi aggregator.

The police have reached out to their counterparts in Hyderabad to verify his antecedents.

DCP (Southeast division) B.M. Laxmi Prasad said that, following a similar incident some time ago, strict instructions were given to bike taxi aggregators and those running food delivery apps to check the antecedents of the people who attach their vehicles on their platform. The police said that aggregators must ensure the safety of women using the mobile app.

Rapido did not respond to the incident.

A pleasant moment

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai met Congress leader Siddaramaiah by chance at Belagavi airport on Wednesday. ANI

Cybercrime police book case against advertisers of 'Voter Data Management Software'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Southeast Division Cybercrime police have registered a case against unidentified individuals who have been advertising 'Voter Data Management Software' with candidates contesting the Assembly elections.

This comes close on the heels of the alleged voter data theft case by Chilume Trust. An inquiry report by the Regional Commissioner, Bengaluru, submitted to Chief Electoral Officer said the private trust had been illegally collecting voter data, but said the electoral rolls have not been compromised.

Raju, an Independent contestant from Bengaluru South constituency, got a message on WhatsApp, which offered a demo of the software and promised to put the electoral rolls of the constituency at his disposal, send voters bulk messages through WhatsApp and get reports of the communication outreach efforts. He filed a complaint with the Electoral Registration Officer, Bengaluru South constituency, who in turn filed a complaint with cybercrime police. The police have now registered a case under the Information Technology Act, 2000, and Representation of the People Act, 1951.

KIA's T-2 caters to over 11 lakh passengers in first 100 days

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Kempegowda International Airport's (KIA) Terminal-2 (T-2), which recently completed 100 days of operations, has catered to over 11 lakh passengers.

The 2,55,661-sq.m T-2, which was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on November 11, became operational on January 15 and since then 11,33,645 passengers have used it.

According to Bangalore International Airport Ltd., the operator of the airport, T-2 has seen 7,501 flight movements with an on-time performance of 76%.

At present, the T-2 is operating only domestic services and international services are expected to commence in the coming months.

Three domestic carriers Star Air, AirAsia India, and Vistara are operating from the new terminal. Star Air was the first airline to begin flights from the new terminal on January 15.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This notice is issued on behalf of my client **Dr. B.S. AjaiKumar, S/o. Sri B Sadashivaiah** to bring to the notice of the general public that the original absolute sale deed bearing Doc. No. 2517/85-86 of Book 1 in Volume 3238, pages 141-145, dated-1986, registered in the office of the Central Sub-Registrar, Gandhinagar, executed by the Deputy Secretary, BDA in favour of **Dr. B. S. AjaiKumar** is missing/ lost/ misplaced. A complaint regarding the loss of the aforesaid document has been registered on 13-04-2023 with the Bengaluru City Police bearing Lost Report No. 0533007/2023.
If any person/s, firm, company, institution or organization has any claim or are holding the afore-mentioned document, they may contact the undersigned in writing within **7 days** from the date of this notice failing which it will be presumed that there are no such claims.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the property bearing **Site No.325**, in **Matadahally, 1 Block, Bengaluru,** measuring East to West 12.19 meters and North to South 18.29meters in all measuring **222.97 sq.mtrs** and bounded on:
East by : Site No. 324
West by : Site No. 325/A
North by : Road
South by : Site No. 344

Mr. B.T. PRASANNA KUMAR AND ASSOCIATES,
ADVOCATES
Mob: +91 9243118157
 # 56, 1 Main Road, 6th Cross, Sudhamanagar, Bangalore-560027.

PUBLIC NOTICE

General public are hereby informed that, our client **Sri.Kiran Kumar** has lost the original documents such as: **1) Allotment letter dated 21-05-1969, 2) Possession Certificate dated 02-08-1969, 3)original as well as Photocopy of Sale deed executed by BDA in favor of Sri.M.Muniyellappa, 4) Sale deed dated 18-06-1969, document No.1130/1969-70, 5)Sale deed dated 23-09-1969, registered on 03-10-1969, document No.2608/1969-70, 6)Sale deed dated 03-10-1969, document No.2609/1969-70, 7)Sale deed dated 08-12-1969, document No.3551/1969-70, 8)Sale deed dated 21-01-1970, document No.4127/1969-70,** in respect of property bearing No.103/A, then 103A, New Municipal No.24, situated at **5th Cross, 5th Main Road, Sampangiramangar, Bangalore-560027,** while house renovation. If anybody found the said document please contact this Nos. **9844155041 and 7592891175.**

V.S.Rai & Associates, LAW FIRM
No.23,"Venkatadri" 6th Main,
5th Cross, S.R.Nagar, Bangalore-27.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that my client Mr. COLLIN ARANHA S/o Joseph Aranha, intends to purchase the schedule property from 1. S D Murthy & others, Same is acquired by S D Murthy by way of Un Reg Partition deed dated 20.08.1984 executed between Dodda Gangavva & Others. It is therefore requested that the general public, any financial institutions who have any claim/objection over the schedule property for the proposed purchase shall lodge such claim/objection in writing with supporting documents with the undersigned within Ten days from the date of publication of this notice.
All that piece and parcel of the property bearing site No.60/4 formed in Sy No.22/1N1, situated at Seededahalli Village, Yashwanthapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk. Measuring EW-40ft & NS-30ft, In total 1200sqft. bounded as:
East: Road, West: Remaining portion of site No. 60., North: Site No. 60/5, South: Road.

Adv. Praveen Kumar N.K.
No.1724/B, 1st E Main Road, D Block 2nd Stage, Rajajinagar, Bangalore-560010.

High Court orders 'triple tests' for couple facing legal hurdles to have child through surrogacy

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has evolved "triple tests" for considering the plea of a couple to have a child through altruistic surrogacy. It has suggested them to "iron out the creases" in the Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021, which prohibits men aged above 55 to have a child through surrogacy.

Also, the court said that the provision in the Act, which states that "surrogate mother should be genetically related" to the couple who wants to have a child through surrogacy "defeats both altruism and logic".

"Altruistic surrogacy should mean, surrogacy by an outsider. Therefore, the provision [genetically related] runs counter to the philosophy or principle behind the enactment," the court said. Justice M. Nagaprasanna made these observations while partly allowing a petition filed by a 57-year-old employee in a government college in Bengaluru, and his 45-year-old wife.

The petitioners, who lost their only child, a 23-year-old son, in a road accident in 2022, sought to have a child through altruistic surrogacy.

Age criteria

It has been said in the petition that the wife's sister has come forward to donate her eggs for this purpose as the wife had undergone hysterectomy and cannot ovulate or donate eggs/gamete for surrogacy. But the petitioner-husband is facing legal hurdles as he cannot have a child through surrogacy as he has crossed 55 years and hence his sperms cannot be used to fertilise the donated eggs through In Vitro Fertilization (IVF) process.

Though a 25-year-old woman, a family friend of the petitioners and a mother of two children, came forward to be a surrogate mother, this again has posed a legal obstacle as she is not 'genetically related' to them, as the law mandates that surrogate mother has to be 'genetically related' to those intending to have a child through surrogacy.

'Triple tests a must'

Observing that the lawmakers would have foreseen such a scenario while framing the Act, Justice Nagaprasanna said that it was the duty of the constitutional court to "iron out creases in the legislation without disturbing its content".

As the various legal issues on Surrogacy (Regulation) Act are before the Supreme Court, the High Court has evolved the triple tests --- genetic test, physical test, and economic test --- which the petitioner-husband has to pass to become eligible to become a father by surrogacy.

Noticing that men experience a decrease in sperm health with age, the court said that the petitioner-husband would have to undergo genetic test so that the child is not born with any disorder.

The couple have to undergo a physical test to ascertain their physical capacity to manage the child as the life of the surrogate child should become miserable if they are infirm to handle the child; and economy test by filling statements on their assets and liabilities before the authorities concerned to ensure that they can protect the future of the child.

The High Court said that the authority concerned set up under the Act should consider the plea of the couple within eight weeks based on the triple tests and ascertaining the details of the intending surrogate mother.

However, the High Court did not deal with the on legality of the provisions of the Act as they pending before the apex court for adjudication.

D.B. Inamdar laid to rest

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The final rites of the former Minister D.B. Inamdar were carried out with state honours in Neginal village of Belagavi district on Wednesday. Assistant Commissioner Prabhavati Fakirpur, Deputy Superintendent of Police Ravi Nayak and other officials represented the State. The mortal remains were buried in a corner of the family farm in the village.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the NOTICE of General Public that **SHYAM PAUL RAAJ,** aged about 69 years, s/o. Devasikhamani, R/at: No. 39, Divine Shalom, Doddasanne Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, being the full & absolute owner of the Property bearing No. 941/3/11 and E-Khatha No. 150300201900420147 carved out of Sy. No.3/11 situated at Doddasanne Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District Measuring South by 12.40 meters, East by 54.60 Meters, North by 27.40 Meters, West by **29+3** Meters, admeasuring 06 guntas, which is morefully described in the schedule below, having purchased the same from his previous Vendor/s/Manthena Krishnamraj under sale deed dated 09/03/2020 registered as Document No. DNH-1-11508/2019-20 of Book – I stored in C.D. No. DNHD 987 in the office of the Senior Sub Registrar, Devanahalli.
It is further notified to the General Public that Shyam Paul Raaj had lost the earlier Sale Deed dated 24/10/2008 executed by Narayanappa, Shobha, Vishwanath & Harish in favour of Manthena Krishnamraj registered on 10/02/2009 as Document No. DNH-1-05682/2008-09 of Book – I stored in C.D. No. DNHD 169 in the office of the Sub Registrar, Devanahalli. A Police complaint in this regard was lodged with Devanahalli Police Station on **01/04/2023 vide Lost Report No. PO0266230600092.**
It is also notified that (i) Siva Prasada Rao Baggi s/o. Venkateswarlu Baggi and **Lakshmi Prasanna Gandham** w/o. Siva Prasada Rao Baggi R/at: Door No.1 Flat No. 3, Lake Palazzo Apartment, St. John Road, New Lake Side Hospital, Halasuru, Sivan Chetty Gardens, BANGALORE – 42 are intending to avail loan from LIC Housing Finance Ltd., to purchase the schedule property from present owner/ Shyam Paul Raaj.
I, hereby request that if any person/s come across or find the same, he/she/they are requested to hand over the same to the below mentioned address & they will be compensated accordingly.
The General Public are hereby further cautioned that if anybody deals with the Schedule Property with any person/s on the basis of the misplaced/lost document mentioned above, it is at their own risk & cost and such person/s will not derive any title over the Schedule Property and in such an event they have no claim of whatsoever nature against Shyam Paul Raaj nor against the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL of property bearing Property bearing No. 941/3/11 and E-Khatha No. 150300201900420147 carved out of Sy. No.3/11, Situated at **Doddasanne Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District,** Measuring South by 12.40 meters, East by 54.60 Meters, North by 27.40 Meters, West by **29+3** Meters, admeasuring 06 guntas land **compromising of Ground and First Floor/s** & bounded on: -
East by : Land belonging to Muniyamma and Anjinamma's; West by : Land belonging to Asha's; North by : Thar Road &; South by : Sri Muneshwara Temple:

Shri. G.N. HARISH, Advocates,
312, Ground Floor, 21st 'A' Cross,
VI Block, Jayanagar, BANGALORE - 560 082.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

14th ANNIVERSARY
In loving memory of

Mrs.KANAKA THOMAS
Fondly remembered by
T.Joseph (Son)
Dr.Hemalatha (Daughter-in-law)
Rohit, Devina, Harvey & Rohan

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

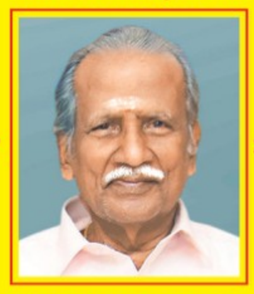
14th Anniversary

S. Jaspal Singh Aneja
28.07.1946 ◆ 27.04.2009
Always in our Memories
Fondly remembered by
FAMILY MEMBERS and
Sintron Electronics P. Ltd
Singh Trading Company
MAK Electronics
CHENNAI

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

1st DEATH ANNIVERSARY
In our hearts forever

25-01-1937 — 27-04-2022

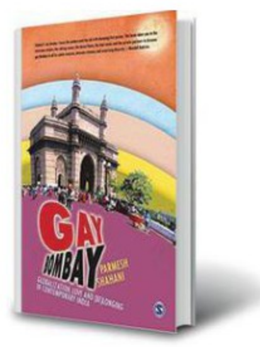


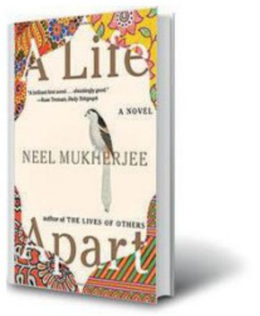
Prof. S. RAMASUBRAMANIAN., M.A., M.Phil
HOD of Mathematics at Pudukottai,
Principal of Govt Arts Colleges at Vridhachalam, Krishnagiri & Ooty.

You were our guiding light,
God recalled your soul so bright,
Sad we are, but joyful too,
to love & be loved by you.

Saraswathi (Wife), Family and Friends
Email: sankar600040@gmail.com
Mobile: +91-89038 00586

BIBLIOGRAPHY





Tale as old as time: The Annual Queer Pride March in 2019. FILE PHOTO

Shining a light on the 'darkness of ignorance' through literary LGBTQ+ tales

From the epics to Ismat Chughtai to contemporary writers, Indian literature in Sanskrit, Hindi, Urdu and other languages have written about same-sex relationships through the ages in one form or the other

Ziya Us Salam

A day before the Supreme Court began hearing a clutch of petitions seeking legal validity for same-sex marriages, the Centre, in an affidavit, held that the demand was merely a voicing of "urban elitist views" and that the existing concept of marriage as a heterogeneous institution enjoys the sanctity of law and religion.

The government's objection notwithstanding, same-sex relationships are not alien to Indian culture. Indian literature in Sanskrit, Hindi, Urdu and other languages is replete with such stories. For instance, in the 1940s, illustrious Urdu writer Ismat Chughtai made bold to write a short story, *Lihaaf*, (The Quilt) which turned all preconceived notions about women writers on their head. Chughtai unabashedly wrote about a liaison between two women, unthinkable for the times. Many male contemporaries condemned Chughtai and her story. She was charged with obscenity and faced a trial in Lahore, a case she won because the judge didn't find a single four-letter word in the story.

Lihaaf was to be Chughtai's lasting introduction to posterity. Way ahead of its time, Chughtai used the eyes of a 10-year-old girl to open a window hitherto shut. The little girl is privy to the happenings in the life of a bored Begum Jaan, rich, sensuous and keen for company, and her amorous trysts with Rabbo, a girl whose ministrations drive away Begum Jaan's pain and anguish, bringing in their wake an inscrutable joy. Later, Chughtai revealed, the story was based on what she had heard and seen as a child.

Open ending

The story ends on an enigmatic note with the girl claiming, "What I saw when the corner of the quilt was lifted, I will never tell anyone, not even if someone gives me a lakh of rupees." Well, Chughtai's fortune went beyond a lakh or two, and indeed beyond the measure of money.

Interestingly, while a lot of attention has been paid to Begum and Rabbo, not half as much attention has been paid to Nawab Saheb, her virtuous husband who is never seen in the company of nautch girls. He, however, keeps an open house for young, slender men, whose expenses he happily bears. Chughtai leaves it open-ended, allowing the reader to decide.

As noted author-translator Tahira Naqvi writes in the introduction to *The Quilt and Other Stories*, (translated by Syeda Hameed and Naqvi) "The world of Ismat's fiction is inhabited by people who come from the middle class, much as she did. Their circles of familiarity include, as hers did, not only relatives, close and distant, but the entire servant class, not forgetting an assortment of neighbours."

Over a period of time, Chughtai's work has been much feted. Yet the fact remains, same-sex relationships have been dealt with in Indian literature since centuries. Vatsyayana's *Kama Sutra* reserves a chapter for such intimacies. We have Bhagwat Purana's story of how Vishnu changed his form to Mohini and how Shiva was attracted to Mohini. Also there are sections of the Krittivasa Ramayana which Ruth Vanita and Saleem Kidwai talk about in *Same-Sex Love in India*: "In a recent English translation of the Krittivasa Ramayana, where the text describes the two widows of King Dilipa as living together 'in extreme love,' the translator renders this as 'living together behaving like husband and wife'."

Vanita and Kidwai throw light on Shiva's fascination for Vishnu, stating, "The story of Shiva's attraction to Vishnu is related in at least three Puranas which date approximately from 850 to 950 A.D. In the Brahmanda Purana, Parvati stands with her head lowered in shame when Shiva chases Mohini. In the Shiva Purana, the seven sages collect Shiva's semen and infuse it into Gautama's daughter through her ear. She then gives birth to Hanuman, the monkey-god."

It was not just in ancient texts. In medieval India too we have had Amir Khusrau whose love for Nizamuddin Auliya is well documented. Khusrau expressed his love in the words: "My blossoming youth is red with passion/How can I spend this time alone?/Will someone persuade Nizamuddin Aulia/For the more I coax him, the more he acts coy". In the 17th century, poet Wali Dakhani, widely considered as Urdu ghazal's first poet, penned the couplet for his male lover, "Aaj teri bhuvon ne masjid me/Hosh khoya hai har namazi ka (Today in the mosque, your eyebrows/Made all worshippers lose their minds)." He was followed by Mir Taqi Mir who made no secret of his love for a 'launda' (young man) in Agra.

In modern times

In more recent times, some of our authors have made space for homosexual characters in their works, like Manju Kapur in *A Married Woman* and Hansda Sowvendra Shekhar in *My Father's Garden*.

Even more forthright has been Parmesh Shahani who gave a fresh meaning to Sahir Ludhianvi's timeless song, Kabhi kabhi mere dil mein khayal aata hai, by dedicating it to Junri Shimada, his friend in his book *Gay Bombay*.

Incidentally, the stakes were high for Shahani, as he has a high-profile presence in the corporate world. Then, not many would have forgotten the gently unfolding saga by Neel Mukherjee called *A Life Apart*, all adding up to tell us that people who prefer one of their own have found their voice, and are no longer shy of speaking up.

Keeping the government's objection aside, same-sex love has been celebrated in history, from ancient texts to medieval poetry to modern short stories. As the Mahabharata put it, "The lamp of history destroys the darkness of ignorance."

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Today's quiz is about a substance used almost everywhere on the planet but whose production contributes to 8% of greenhouse gas emissions

Vasudevan Mukunth

QUESTION 1
This material, concrete, is the world's second-most used, behind X, and the most-used in the construction industry. X is also used in concrete. Name X.

QUESTION 2
An important ingredient of concrete is X. The most common type of X in the world is Portland X, named for its similarity to a stone mined in the Isle of Portland, England. What is X?

QUESTION 3
The bacterium Sporosarcina pasteurii takes calcium and urea to produce calcite, a form of _____ _____. Adding S. pasteurii to concrete increases its compression strength. Fill in the blanks.

QUESTION 4
Most of concrete's enormous carbon footprint is due to the production of _____, the main component of cement. It's made by fusing limestone and clay. Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 5
Concrete and X are the major culprits of the urban heat island effect, in which urban areas are warmer than rural areas, especially at night. Name X, which is called asphalt in the U.S.

Visual question:
This dam has the world's highest hydroelectric power generation capacity and holds the record for the world's single largest pour of concrete. Name the dam. AP

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz:
1. Apart from the Chernobyl disaster, this incident is also rated at seven on the International Nuclear Event Scale. **Ans: Fukushima nuclear disaster in Japan**
2. Considered the worst accident in U.S. commercial nuclear power plant history, this accident released radioactive gases and radioactive iodine into the environment. **Ans: Three Mile Island accident**
3. This person is known as the most radioactive human ever. **Ans: Albert Stevens; he was injected with plutonium**
4. The two nuclear accidents which occurred in 1957, in the U.K., and the Soviet Union. **Ans: The Windscale fire in the U.K., and the Kyshtym disaster in the Soviet Union**
5. This intergovernmental organisation established in 1957 seeks to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy. This speech by D. Eisenhower laid the foundation for of the organisation. **Ans: International Atomic Energy Agency; 'Atoms for Peace' speech**
Visual: Identify this singer and the song he recorded about the destruction of the planet. **Ans: 'Time Will Crawl' by David Bowie**
Early Birds: Saurabh Kumar| Nandini Sharma| Indra Sharma

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

"Mr. Mgumba P. M. M. Ndamo, T.K.M. College of Engineering, Quilon, wants to know the meaning of 'via media'."

" 'Via media' is a Latin expression meaning 'the middle way'. It is a middle way between two extremes.

He either fasts completely or over eats. He doesn't believe in the via media, which is eating moderately.

We must find a via media between religious fanaticism and atheism.

The first 'i' is pronounced like the 'i' in 'find'; the second 'i' is pronounced like the 'i' in 'bit'. The 'e' is pronounced like the 'ee' in 'feel'. The two 'a's are pronounced like the 'a' in 'China'. The stress is on 'me'."

"Mr. C. Jaganmohan, 17/739, Achari Street, Nellore, wants to know whether a big businessman should be called a business magnate or a business magnet."

"He should be called a business magnate. A magnate is 'a person of wealth, influence or distinction in a specified area of business or industry'. 'Magnate' is from the Latin magnus which means 'great'. 'Mag' rhymes with 'bag', 'nate' rhymes with 'late', 'date'. The stress is on the first syllable 'mag'."

"Mr. A. K. Singh, Karolbagh, New Delhi, wants to know the difference between 'mutual' and 'reciprocal'."

"'Mutual' means (of feeling, action, etc.) felt, done, by each towards the other (mutual affection, benefit, suspicion).

What touched me was their mutual affection.

This means that the affection was not one-sided. Each had affection for the other.

Their mutual dislike is well-known.

Something is mutual when it exists between two people in the same way and at the same time. 'Reciprocal' means 'in return'.

He helps people without expecting any reciprocal benefit.

That action is reciprocal when what one gives is returned by the other. 'Reciprocal' is used in the sense of mutual when it relates to feelings.

It was reciprocal love and not one-sided.

In colloquial English, 'mutual' is used in the sense of 'common to two or more persons'.

John is our mutual friend.

The use of 'mutual' in the sense of 'common' is objected to by some. But it has been used in this sense also since the 16th century. *Our Mutual Friend* is one of the novels of Charles Dickens."

"Several readers want to know the meaning of 'penchant'. 'Penchant' means 'inclination', 'liking'.

He has a penchant for irony.

She has a penchant for ugly men.

He has a penchant for classical music.

'Penchant' is always followed by 'for'. The e' in 'penchant' is pronounced like the 'e' in 'bet' and the 'a' is pronounced like the 'a' in 'China'. 'Ch' is pronounced like the 'ch' in 'China'."

Published in The Hindu on October 27, 1987.

Word of the day

Carouse:
revelry in drinking; a merry drinking party; engage in boisterous, drunken merrymaking (used as both a noun and a verb)

Synonyms:
bender, booze-up, toot, carousal, riot, roister

Usage: *They were out carousing last night.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/carousepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /kəˈɹaʊz/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Two arrested

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Central Crime Branch (CCB) police raided a shop at Prakashnagar in Rajajinagar and recovered ₹2 lakh worth of foreign cigarettes and electronic cigarettes illegally smuggled from abroad. The police arrested John, 20, and Ansar, 30, both hailing from Kasaragod, Kerala. The prime accused in the case, Zameer, 32, also from Kasaragod, is absconding. The trio was selling cigarettes illegally smuggled from abroad.

Timings
BENGALURU

THURSDAY, APR. 27		
RISE	06:01	SET 18:34
RISE	11:49	SET 00:15
FRIDAY, APR. 28		
RISE	06:01	SET 18:34
RISE	12:40	SET 01:01
SATURDAY, APR. 29		
RISE	06:00	SET 18:34
RISE	13:30	SET 01:44

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	33	26
Mysuru	35	24
Bengaluru	33	23

Bengaluru Today
34°C The weather will be warm and humid. Night also will be pleasant. Chances of light rain and thundershower with gusty winds.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
33°C A pleasant morning with mist & haze. Day will be warm and humid. Spell of moderate rain and thundershower with gusty winds to occur.

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THE HINDU
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Average sitting days of 15th Legislative Assembly was only 25: ADR report

The longest session was the 12th one held from February 14 to March 30, 2022, with 26 sittings

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Legislative Assembly sat for only 25 days a year on average, revealed the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) report '15th Legislative Assembly of Karnataka: Analysis of Performance of MLAs'.

During 2018-2023, a total of 150 sittings were held and the longest session was the 12th session from February 14, 2022 to March 30, 2022, with 26 sittings.

The ADR and the Karnataka Election Watch jointly released the report on Wednesday based on the information given by the Karnataka Assembly Secretariat and its website.

In 2018, there were 22 sittings of the Assembly, in 2019 - 18 days, in 2020 - 14 days, in 2021 - 40 days, in 2022 - 45 days, and in 2023 - 11 days.

K.S. Lingaiah, JD(S) MLA for Belur, and Channappa Mallappa Nimbannavar, BJP MLA for Kalaghatgi, had 100% attendance by attending all the 150 sittings.

With 107 days of attendance, the JD(S) topped the party-wise average attendance. The BJP had 99 days, the Congress - 95 days and Independent MLAs - 93 days.

Analysis of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly from 2018 to 2023

A total of 150 sittings were held in the Legislative Assembly

On an average, the Assembly sat for 25 days a year

218 MLAs asked 27,583 questions

Highest number of questions were related to general administration (2,285), finance/revenue (2,281), social welfare (1,516), education (1,168), and Jal Shakti Vibhag (1,096)

The longest was the 12th session — from February14, 2022 to March 30, 2022. It had 26 sittings.

A total of 214 Bills were tabled in the 15th Assembly. Out of these, 202 (94%) Bills were passed.

THE DETAILS OF THE MLAS WITH HIGHEST ATTENDANCE

Name	Constituency	Party	Total sittings held	Attendance	Percentage
K.S. Lingesh	Belur	JD(S)	150	150	100%
Channappa Mallappa Nimbannavar	Kalaghatgi	BJP	150	150	100%
G.B. Jyothiganesh	Tumakuru City	BJP	150	149	99%
Sanjeeva Matandoor	Puttur	BJP	150	148	99%

PARTY-WISE AVERAGE ATTENDANCE (In days)

Party	No. of MLAs	Average attendance
JD(S)	35	107
BJP	122	99
Congress	76	95
Independents	2	93

TOP 5 MLAS WHO ASKED HIGHEST NUMBER OF QUESTIONS

Name	Constituency	Party	No. of questions asked
N.A. Haris	Shantinagar	Congress	591
Yashvanthrayagouda Patil	Indi	Congress	532
Umanatha A. Kotian	Moodbidri	BJP	502
H.D. Revanna	Holenarsipur	JD(S)	487
S.N. Narayana Swamy	Bangarpet	Congress	487

The report said 218 MLAs asked 27,583 questions. The highest number of questions were related to general administration followed by finance/revenue, social welfare, education, and Jal Shakti Vibhag. N.A. Haris of the Congress asked 591 questions – the highest. A total of 214 Bills were tabled in the 15th Assembly. Out of these, 202 (94%) Bills were passed.

Trilochan Sastry, chairman, founder-member and trustee of ADR said, "Twenty-five days in a year is very poor. If a student has this kind of attendance, he or she will not be allowed to write the examination."

Regular attendance

Harish Narasappa, State coordinator of Karnataka Election Watch, said, "In this election, we must demand regular attendance in the session from contestants. We must insist on them not hopping from one party to another after winning the election for some benefits."

Vinaya Srinivas, an advocate, said, "Owing to money power, people who are not eligible will be elected. Money power will prevent women and Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe representation in the Assembly. In recent days, muscle power has taken a different perspective – of trolling women politicians on social media. Online abuse will resist women from coming into politics. Therefore, we must ask for some guidelines to prevent all this."

Slogans raised against Yediyurappa at Athani

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Some followers of Laxman Savadi, who joined the Congress after quitting the BJP, raised slogans against B.S. Yediyurappa when the former Chief Minister arrived at Athani on Wednesday to canvass for BJP candidate Mahesh Kumathalli.

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www.sbfhealthcare.com

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A BG-BGE

Over 16 lakh people added to voter list after publication of final rolls

After announcement of polls, enrolment activities were taken up till April 20 and all eligible applications received during this period have been updated in the electoral roll, says CEO

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As many as 16,04,285 people, including around two lakh young electors, have been added to the voters' list after the publication of the final electoral rolls on January 5 and January 15 in Karnataka.

Addressing presspersons here on Wednesday, Manoj Kumar Meena, Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) for Karnataka, said with this, the total number of electors in the 224 Assembly constituencies for the May 10 polls has now touched 5.31 crore.

After the final rolls were published, people had time till 10 days prior to the last day of filing nominations (April 20) to get their names added, deleted, or updated. Releasing the final data on the electors and candidates, the CEO said there is no scope for adding, deleting, or updating the rolls now. "After the announcement of polls, enrolment activities were taken up till April 20 and all eligible applications received during this period have been updated in the electoral roll 2023," he said.

Manoj Kumar Meena, Chief Electoral Officer for Karnataka

Final list

- Total candidates in fray : **2,615**
- Male candidates: **2,429**
- Female candidates: **185**
- Others : **1**
- Total electors: **5,31,33,054,** including **47,488** service voters
- Male electors: **2,67,28,053,** including **45,897** service voters
- Female electors:**2,64,00,074,** including **1,591** service voters
- Others: **4,927**
- Total young electors : **11,71,558**
- Male young electors: **6,45,140**
- Female young electors: **5,26,237**
- Young electors in 'Others' category : **181**
- Physically challenged electors: **571,281**
- 80+ electors: **1,215,920**
- NRI electors : **3,048**
- Particularly vulnerable tribal groups: **30,517**
- Current Elector-Population ratio as per enrolment: **70.17**
- Current Gender ratio as per enrolment: **989**
- Total polling stations: **58,545**

Voter guide
A voter guide (in Kannada/English) will be handed over to every household ahead of the elections, giving information about the date and time of polls, contact details of BLOs, important websites, helpline numbers, documents required for identification at the polling station, besides other important information including the do's and don'ts for voters at the polling station. This guide will be distributed along with voter slips by the BLOs, he said.

Queue management
Pointing out that adjacent rooms of the polling stations will be used as waiting rooms for the voters, Mr. Meena said fans have been fitted for the comfort of the voters.

"At selected places, shamiyanas with chairs would be provided to ensure that voters do not stand in the queue for a long time. In some districts, tokens will be issued to voters in the waiting room which will reduce their wait time in the queue. Besides, people can also make use of the Queue Management App (Chunavana App) to know the queue status at the polling stations," he added.

Dakshina Kannada has highest number of citizens aged above 80 who have opted to vote from home

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As many as 99,529 electors across the State have opted to vote from home in the Assembly elections. These include 80,250 people aged above 80 and 19,279 persons with disabilities (PwDs).

For the first time, the Election Commission has introduced the vote-from-home facility for people aged above 80 and PwDs if they are unable to go out to exercise their franchise. The facility was made available for the 12.15 lakh people aged above 80 (including 16,976 centenarians), and 5.71 lakh benchmarked PwDs in the Assembly elections in Karnataka. The window for opting the facility was closed on April 17.

While Dakshina Kannada district has the highest number of people (10,808) aged above 80 who have opted for the facility, Bengaluru Rural has the least at 470. At 2,845, Tumkuru district has the highest number of PwDs who have opted to vote from home and the lowest is from BBMP Central at 14.

Manoj Kumar Meena, Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) for Karnataka, said 9,152 senior citizens and 119 PwDs have opted for the facility in the 28 Assembly constituencies in Bengaluru. In Bengaluru Rural, 113 PwDs have given their consent to vote from home.

Among the 224 constituencies, Sira has the highest number of people aged above 80 who have opted to vote from home at 2,480. The least number of people who have opted for this facility is from Ballari Rural (3) and Chittapur (7).

While there has been zero response from PwD electors in Rajajinagar, Shantinagar, Pulakeshinagar, BTM Layout, Padmanabhanagar, and Vijayanagar constituencies to this facility, the highest is from Sira at 1,499.

Venkatesh Kumar R., Additional Chief Electoral Officer, said electors' response to this facility has been lukewarm, especially in urban areas. "In Bengaluru, our personnel found it hard to enter apartments and gated communities to distribute the 12D forms (consent forms to avail the facility) because they were refused entry. Overall, not more than 6.6% of senior citizens have opted," he said. This problem was not faced in rural areas.

Mr. Meena said arrangements for these voters are in progress. "Separate teams will go to the homes of these persons with a ballot paper and collect their votes. The voting will happen 5 to 6 days prior to the actual day of polling. The entire process will be videographed and polling agents of the candidates will be informed well in advance; they will also be present during the voting procedure to ensure greater level of transparency. If the person is not available during the first visit, he/she will get a second chance and that will be the last," he said.

In figures

- Total number of people who chose to vote from home: **99,529**
- People aged above 80 who opted for this facility: **80,250**
- Highest in Dakshina Kannada district: **10,808**
- Lowest in Bengaluru Rural: **470**
- Persons with disabilities who opted for this facility: **19,279**
- Highest in Tumakuru district: **2,645**
- Lowest in BBMP Central : **14**

Somanna accused of offering inducement to JD (S) candidate

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Housing Minister V. Somanna has been accused of offering inducements to JD(S) nominee in Chamarajanagar Assembly constituency Mallikarjuna Swamy, also known as Alur Manju, in a bid to convince him to withdraw from the fray.

Mr. Somanna, who is facing former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in Varuna, is also contesting from another constituency of Chamarajanagar, where he is pitted against and Congress MLA C. Puttarangashetty, among others.

Audio clip
In an audio clip, which has gone viral, Mr. Somanna is heard addressing Mr. Manju as his "old friend" and assuring him an "official car" when the BJP comes to power in the State. Assuring to protect his interests and helping him whatever way he wishes, Mr. Somanna is also heard saying that he was making the promise from a temple.

In the telephonic conversation, which appears to have taken place on April 24, the last date for withdrawal of nominations, Mr. Somanna is heard appealing to the JD (S) candidate to withdraw from the fray as there was barely an hour left for the same.

₹50 lakh assured
The other persons, speaking to Mr. Manju on behalf of Mr. Somanna, were heard assuring him a payment of ₹50 lakh for withdrawing his nomination.

Meanwhile, Mr. Manju told reporters that the audio clip that has gone viral is the conversation between him and Mr. Somanna that took place on the afternoon of April 24.

'Will not succumb'
Making it clear that he will not succumb to offers and inducements, Mr. Manju said he will contest the elections and win it. "He assured me an official car and help in the future. I did not agree," he said.

He said he was in the JD (S), but had recently joined the BJP and was an aspirant for the party ticket to contest from Chamarajanagar. When he was denied ticket, Mr. Manju said he succeeded in securing the nomination of JD(S).

INBRIEF

Alkod Hanumanthappa is JD (S) working president

Former Minister Alkod Hanumanthappa, who joined the Janata Dal (Secular) in Bengaluru on Tuesday, has been appointed as the JD(S) working president. He joined the regional party in the presence of party State president C.M. Ibrahim and former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy. Mr. Kumaraswamy said that it was a home coming for Mr. Hanumanthappa. He also indicated that more leaders are joining the party in Tumakuru on Wednesday.

Car belonging to Sharath Bache Gowda's wife damaged

Hoskote incumbent MLA Sharath Bache Gowda's wife Partibha's car was damaged, broken into, and her bag and mobile phone stolen in Hoskote on Wednesday morning. Ms. Partibha, who has been campaigning for her husband, had been to Parvatipura with other women workers. She had parked her car by the street side and was carrying out door-to-door campaigning. By the time she returned, she found the windshield of the car had been smashed and the articles missing. The incident took a political colour and tension prevailed in the area. The police have booked a case and are looking for CCTV footage.

Like a dose of salts

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi trying her hand at making masala dosa at a hotel in Mysuru on Wednesday. PTI

'Cong. educated all Indians, including Modi'

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

"The Congress educated everyone, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi," party president Mallikarjun Kharge said in Chikkodi on Wednesday.

Addressing a rally, Mr Kharge said: "Mr. Modi keeps asking what has the Congress done in 70 years. If he looks around, he will see what our party has done. We have built dams, public sector undertakings. We have provided education, healthcare and employment opportunities for all. When the country got independence, literacy level was around 16%. Now, it is around 70%. Who educated all the doctors, engineers, scientists, teachers and lawyers all these years? Congress educated everyone, including Mr Modi."

He appealed to people to ensure that Congress gets at least 150 seats.

Cong. to file plaint against Amit Shah for remark on riots

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The Congress will complain to Election Commission of India against Union Home Minister Amit Shah for saying that there would be riots in Karnataka if the Congress came to power, party president Mallikarjun Kharge said on Wednesday.

"We will complain to ECI and also go to court," Mr Kharge said at a campaign rally in Chikkodi in Belagavi district. "In a public rally in Terdal in Bagalkot district on Tuesday, Mr. Shah told the people that there would be riots if the Congress came to power. First of all, it is an absurd statement, coming from the Home Minister who is in charge of internal security. Secondly, what was he trying to imply? Did he imply that BJP would orchestrate riots if the Congress replaced them?"

He added, "It is an insult to the people of Karnataka. It means that the people of this State are quarrelsome, and are planning to fight and engage in riots. That is not acceptable."

Mr. Kharge said that the Congress had ruled several States for several decades after independence, and there were no riots anywhere just because the Congress came to power.

"I have been in public life, as a legislator, for 53 years. I have never seen this phenomenon. Now, Mr. Shah, who is 55 years old, is telling people that voting for the Congress will lead to riots. It is strange," he said. Congress candidate Ganesh Hukkeri and MLC Prakash Hukkeri were present at the rally.

Hassan: Tough fight between JD(S) and BJP in this crucial battleground

Sathish G.T.
HASSAN

Hassan Assembly constituency attracted attention State-wide following differences within former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda's family over finalising a candidate for the seat.

Bhavani Revanna, wife of former Minister H.D. Revanna, on January 23, announced that the party's senior leaders have decided to field her for the constituency. However, the party's legislature party leader and former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy, declared that he would field an "ordinary worker" for the constituency.

The differences between the two brothers' families intensified with other family members joining the issue. Mr. Deve Gowda had to hold several consultations and the saga dragged on for over 50 days before the party arrived at a consensus to field former four-time MLA the late H.S. Prakash's son H.P. Swaroop. Ms. Bhavani accepted the choice, stating she was more concerned about her father-in-law's health.

Interestingly, the developments over the selection of the JD(S) candidate did help Mr. Swaroop launch himself as a strong opponent against sitting BJP MLA Preetham J. Gowda, who had succeeded in winning in the strong bastion of the JD(S) in 2018. Of the seven Assembly segments in Hassan district, only one had won in the last elections. In fact, he won by securing 41.02% of the votes against H.S. Prakash of the JD(S). In the previous elections held in 2013, the BJP could secure only 4.84% of the votes polled. His initiatives to provide drinking water during the summer and the collection of municipal waste at doorsteps when he was a ticket aspirant, besides meticulous campaigning, helped him win, it is argued.

Now, a major section of voters appreciate him for the attention he gave to improving roads, even in remote corners of the constituency. Despite being in the BJP, he enjoys good rapport with a section of the Muslim population. Once, he said he had worked for the benefit of the community people, though they did not vote for him. He added that he might have to stop working for them if they do not vote for him in the future.

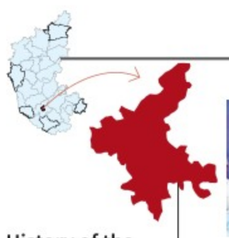
However, he is finding the contest tough because of some of his "brash" comments. He openly challenged Mr. Deve Gowda's family to contest against him. He went on to say that he would resign immediately if his victory margin was less than 50,000 even by one vote. On another occasion, he made wild allegations against Ms. Bhavani and her son Prajwal Revanna. Such comments have not gone down well with the electorate. Besides that, there is anti-incumbency and many are upset that corruption has increased in the last five years.

Though Congress candidate B.K. Rangaswamy (Banavase Rangaswamy), is also in the fray, the contest is largely perceived as between Mr. Preetham and Mr. Swaroop. However, Mr. Rangaswamy's contest can impact the results. Both the Congress and JD(S) candidates are making efforts to garner the support of minorities, who form a significant number in the constituency. If the Congress gets more Muslim votes, the JD(S) will be in trouble.

One Vokkaliga sub-sect
All three major candidates belong to Dasa Vokkaliga, a sub-sect, dominant in Hassan constituency. In the past, the JD(S) fielded H.S. Prakash, a Dasa Vokkaliga in Hassan, so that the party could gain the support of that sub-sect in other constituencies of the district. This was one of the factors that worked in favour of Mr. Swaroop. Mr. Deve Gowda's family belongs to Mullu Vokkaliga, another sub-sect, which dominates elsewhere in the district. but not here.

Poll observers in Hassan believe that the district will witness a tough fight this time between the BJP and the JD(S). The JD(S) candidate is banking on Mr. Deve Gowda's family. The recent campaign by him and Mr. Kumaraswamy drew crowds. But he does need the wholehearted support of Mr. Revanna and Ms. Bhavani. On the other hand, Mr. Preetham is seeking votes for the development works. Many tall leaders of the party are expected to campaign in the constituency in the coming days.

Hassan Assembly Constituency



Main candidates

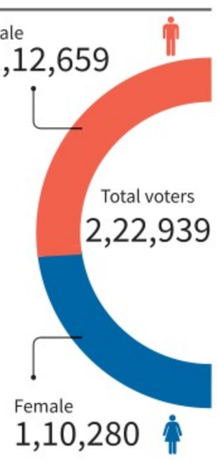
Preetham J. Gowda (BJP)

H.P. Swaroop (JD-S)

B.K. Rangaswamy (Congress)

History of the seat
- Janata Parivar has won the seat six times
- Congress won the seat four times
- BJP has won twice, including in 2018

What people want
- People want better roads, regular water supply, and corruption-free administration
- Many plots in industrial area remain unoccupied. The youth want industries to come up so that they get jobs
- Voters expect better connectivity to taluk centres and neighbouring districts, including Dakshina Kannada



Past results

	Winner	Votes polled Vote share	Runner-up	Votes polled Vote share	Third place	Votes polled Vote share
2018	Preetham J. Gowda (BJP)	63,348 41.02%	H.S. Prakash (JD-S)	50,342 32.60%	H.K. Mahesh (Congress)	38,101 24.67%
2013	H.S. Prakash (JD-S)	61,306 46.78%	H.K. Mahesh Congress	57,110 43.58%	Guruprasad (BJP)	6,083 4.84%

Congress and Janata Dal (S) commit to implement farmers' manifesto

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

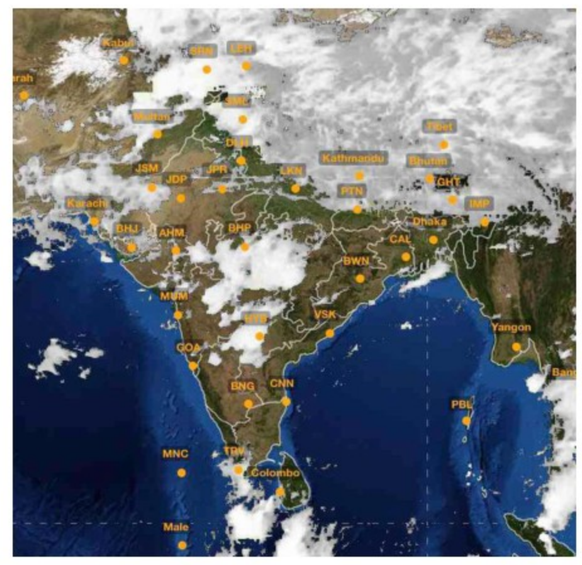
Samyukta Kisan Morcha, that led the farmers' agitation in 2020-21 in Delhi, unveiled a farmers' manifesto for the Assembly Elections, in the city on Wednesday. While the Congress and the JD(S) committed to implementing the manifesto, the BJP did not participate and the farmers' organisations resolved to defeat the BJP in the elections.

All three parties were invited for the event, but the ruling BJP skipped the event. KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar and MLC Thippeswamy on behalf of the JD(S) attended the event and signed an undertaking on behalf of their parties committing themselves to implement the 15-point manifesto.

The manifesto includes demands for repealing three "anti-farmer" laws - The Karnataka Agriculture Produce Marketing (Regulation and Development) (Amendment) Act, 2020, which effectively deregulated wholesale markets for foodgrains in the state, Karnataka Land Revenue (Amendment) Act, 2020, which removed restrictions on transactions of agricultural land and Karnataka Prevention of Slaughter and Preservation of Cattle Act, 2020, which bans cattle slaughter with stringent norms. This apart from a commitment to not privatise energy sector and ensure scientific price for agricultural produce.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 19.00 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Telangana, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, north interior Karnataka, Kerala and Mahe. Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty wind likely at isolated places over Gujarat, Punjab, Delhi, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Konkan & Goa, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	36.4	23.0	Kozhikode	2	36.1	25.6
Ahmedabad	—	40.4	24.1	Kurnool	62	35.4	21.2
Aizawl	—	34.4	17.0	Lucknow	—	35.3	19.9
Allahabad	—	36.3	22.0	Madurai	2	35.7	24.2
Bengaluru	—	33.0	23.7	Mangaluru	—	34.6	24.9
Bhopal	—	—	24.2	Mumbai	—	33.3	27.0
Bhubaneswar	—	36.9	23.4	Mysuru	—	36.0	24.2
Chandigarh	—	35.2	19.6	New Delhi	—	36.8	18.4
Chennai	—	35.5	27.4	Patna	—	37.4	23.5
Coimbatore	2	36.0	23.2	Port Blair	—	33.8	26.7
Dehradun	—	32.7	15.8	Puducherry	—	34.8	27.2
Gangtok	0.5	21.9	12.6	Pune	—	37.3	22.8
Goa	—	34.0	24.8	Raipur	—	36.4	22.3
Guwahati	—	34.2	—	Ranchi	9	33.3	21.2
Hubballi	—	37.0	22.0	Shillong	17	23.7	12.0
Hyderabad	32	33.5	20.3	Shimla	—	21.1	11.0
Imphal	—	31.8	18.4	Srinagar	0.2	20.8	7.9
Jaipur	—	35.4	23.4	Thiruvananthapuram	3	35.0	25.7
Kochi	—	32.8	26.2	Tiruchi	1	37.1	26.6
Kohima	—	26.6	18.4	Vijayawada	—	36.4	19.8
Kolkata	—	35.6	26.0	Visakhapatnam	—	34.4	27.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.42	112	.91	...197	...224	
Bengaluru	.18	..11	.54	56	69	
Chennai	...3	..66	112	77	71	
Delhi	..—	312	.45	...196	...204	
Hyderabad	.11	9	.41	64	63	
Kolkata	.34	..—	.25	...100	...110	
Lucknow	...8	..67	.33	...113	...140	
Mumbai	..—	..35	..—	...184	...134	
Pune	.20	102	.41	...272	...185	
Visakhapatnam	.18	..34	.12	52	89	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 311 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Damoh, Madhya Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 25

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

BJP brings in BSY for damage control

Sudden rebellion by two Lingayat leaders, one belonging to the Ganiga Lingayat community and the other to the Banajiga Lingayat community, has made an adverse impact on the party's prospects

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

First hit by rebellion by former Deputy Chief Minister Laxman Savadi in Belagavi district, then taken aback by the sudden rebellion of the hitherto soft-spoken Jagadish Shettar, the BJP has been forced to rope in former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa for damage control. Although the BJP has been claiming that disgruntled leaders quitting the party would not have an impact, the sudden rebellion by two Lingayat leaders, one belonging to the Ganiga Lingyat community (Savadi) and the other to Banajiga Lingayat community, has made an adverse impact on the party's prospects, if insiders are to be believed.

Party national organising secretary B.L. Santhosh is now the target for both the leaders.

So, the BJP has now brought in Mr. Yediyurappa for damage control.

According to party insiders, Mr. Yediyurappa has been specifically given the task of damage control in Hubballi and Athani, to swing the votes in favour of the party at any cost. As a result, Mr. Yediyurappa held a meeting of Lingayat leaders in Hubballi on Tuesday and held similar meetings in parts of Belagavi district. The tone and tenor of Mr. Yediyurappa's speech has suddenly changed to paint both Mr. Shettar and Mr. Savadi as villains and traitors.

BJP government introduced laws that deny basic rights to workers: Bahutva Karnataka

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The BJP government not only failed to protect the rights and ensure the welfare of the labour force, but also introduced several laws and policies which deny workers basic rights, said Bahutva Karnataka, a coalition of progressive organisations in its report card on the State government in the field of labour, on Wednesday.

The report card said that the Industrial Disputes (Karnataka Amendment) Ordinance, 2020, and other laws which increased the threshold of applicability of various laws, pushed thousands of workers outside the protection of the law, making them more vulnerable to exploitation. It also said that by increasing working hours from 9 to 12 hours through the Factories (Karnataka Amendment) Act, 2023, the basic right to an eight-hour work day has been destroyed. It also alleged that recent amendments introduced by the government to allow women to work night shifts will be further used to exploit them.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Vishwanatha Gupta N.K. S/o N.P. Krishnamurthy R/a Himagiri, 3rd Main, Opp. Ganga Clinic, Vasvi Nagar, Siragate, Tumkur–572106, Tumkur District, Karnataka do here by solemnly affirm and state oath as that in my Aadhar Card and other documents my name mentioned as Vishwanatha Gupta N.K. But in my Old Passport my name appears as Vishwanath Gupta Nellapeta Krishnamurthy. But my true, correct and continue my name as **Vishwanatha Gupta N.K. (New Name)** only in all his future records, deeds, writings, proceedings, transactions private as well as upon all occasions whatsoever vide affidavit sworn before Advocate and Notary P.T. Thippanna on 26.04.2023.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General public that my client is intending to purchase the Schedule Property from **Mr. C. Satyaprasad** S/o Late. C. Purushotham Setty Aged about 69 years residing at #13-2-215, Sreevari Silks, Ramachandranagar Main Road, Ananthapur, A. P - 515001, who is the owner of the property bearing no. 216, Nrupatunga nagar measuring to an extent of 1609 sq. ft. East to West (54+57)/2 feet, and North to South (30+28)/2 feet comprised in the layout of Survey No. 122 of BBMP Katha No. 1952/1681/216 situated at Kothanur, Konanakunte Sub-Division, Konanakunte Ward (Old Yelachenahalli Ward), Bangalore previously at Kothanur Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore, more fully described in schedule hereunder. Apart from the said owner if any person/s has/have any kind of right, title, interest and claim or whatsoever in respect of the schedule property, they are hereby called upon to file the objections along with documentary proof within 7 days from the date of this publication to the below referred address. If no objections are received within the stipulated time, it will be presumed that the above referred is the absolute owner of the schedule property and there are no other claimants.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the residentially converted immovable property bearing Plot no. 216, Nrupatunganagar, measuring to an extent of 1609 sq. ft. East to West (54+57)/2 feet, and North to South (30+28)/2 feet comprised in the layout of Survey No. 122 of BBMP Katha No. 1952/1681/216 situated at Kothanur, Konanakunte Sub-Division, Konanakunte Ward (Old Yelachenahalli Ward), Bangalore previously at Kothanur Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore comprising of residential building with Ground floor measuring 1100 Sq.Ft with RCC Roofing, tiles flooring, jungle wood door and windows with water sewage and electricity connection and fixed electrical appliances, woodwork, wardrobes, kitchen etc.,:

Bounded on:-

East : Private Property,
West : Road,
North : Property with Site No.215,
South : Property with Site No. 217.

RAM M K, Advocate,
113-F, 5-D, 5th Floor, Central Chambers
2nd Main, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru-560009.
Contact No.: 9986696046

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER, MEGA LIFT, BHUBANESWAR.
Plot No: A-8/2, 1st Floor, Bhoi Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751022 (Odisha)
ମୁଖ୍ୟଯନ୍ତ୍ରୀ, ବୃହତ୍ ଉଠା ଜଳସେଚନଙ୍କ ଜାର୍ଯ୍ୟାଳୟ, ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱର
ପ୍ଲଟ ନଂ: ଏ-୮/୨, ପ୍ରଥମ ମହଲା, ଭୋଇ ନଗର, ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱର - ୭୫୧୦୨୨ (ଓଡ଼ିଶା)
E-Mail : cemegalift-eicwr.od@nic.in ; Ph.: 91-0674-2567252, Fax : 91-0674-2567258

No. 2187 /Dated. 25.04.23

Tender Cancellation Notice
Tender Call Notice No. 2ML/2023-24

The tender for the work "Appointment of Project Management Consultant (PMC) for implementation of Mega Lift projects in Cluster No. XIX" is hereby cancelled due to error in creation of tender.

Chief Engineer, Megalift, Bhubaneswar.

A-68: OIPR-32504/11/0006/2324

CHENNAI METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
CIRCLE-I, CONSTRUCTION WING, FIRST FLOOR, KOYAMBEDU, CHENNAI - 600 107.

Short E-Tender Notice Dt. 26.04.2023

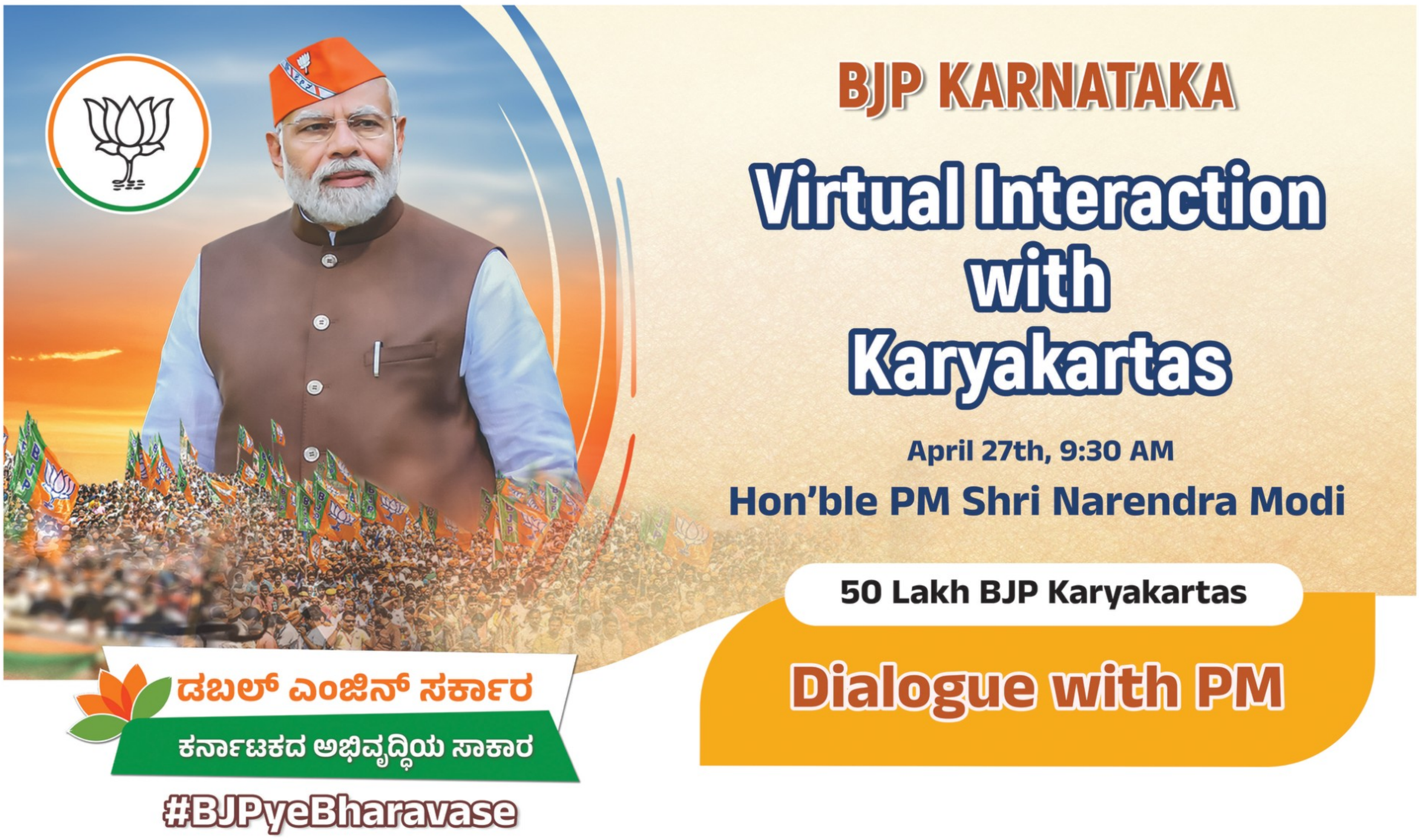
E-tenders are invited from the reputed firm / registered contractors by the Superintending Engineer, Circle -I, Construction Wing, CMDA, Koyambedu, Chennai - 107, under Two cover system for the work of **"Development of Open Space Reservation area as a park and play ground including Civil, Landscape, Electrical, Irrigation, Plumbing, etc at Porur."**

E-tender Notice No.	:	2/2023-24 Dt. 26.04.2023
Last date & Time of receipt of tender through online	:	**11.05.2023 at 3.00 P.M.**
Downloading the tender document by free of cost	:	From **27.04.2023** to **11.05.2023 upto 3.00pm**
For further details visit website	:	**http://tntenders.gov.in**

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
Circle-I, CMDA, Chennai - 107.

DIPR/2318/Tender/2023

"சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம், சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்"


BJP KARNATAKA
Virtual Interaction with Karyakartas
April 27th, 9:30 AM
Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi
50 Lakh BJP Karyakartas
Dialogue with PM
ಡಬಲ್ ಎಂಜಿನ್ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಯ ಸಾಕಾರ
#BJPyeBharavase
Live telecast at 58,112 booths and 1,680 Zila Panchayat Headquarters
Use NaMo App to talk with the PM
Give a missed call on 18002090920, Download the app

Promising Bill

Rajasthan's initiative on a gig workers' welfare board heralds good tidings

With an estimated eight million people employed in an industry built on the back of the smartphone revolution, "gig" work has become a major source of jobs for youth in India. It goes without saying that in a country where informal labour and unemployment have defined the nature of the jobs market in the last decade, the gig economy has been a beneficial outlet of employment. This is especially true of youth and migrant workers, as they seek a ready and quick means of securing finances and flexible hours – an option used by informal workers who have used gigs for moonlighting. With growing smartphone use and a reliance on apps for daily needs and purposes, the gig economy is only set to flourish in terms of usage and opportunities. Yet, increased competition among platforms and the availability of a cheap labour force have led to a lowering of incentives for gig workers even as their workload and uncertainty of work hours have increased significantly relative to pay, which has also become insufficient for many. Adding this to the fact that gig workers are not recognised as "workers" but partners by most aggregating platforms and that they lack any social security or related benefits due to them as "workers", working conditions have become increasingly harsh in an industry that is no longer a fledgling one. This is now evident in growing flash strikes by gig workers.

Seen in this light, the decision by the Rajasthan government, to deliver a Rajasthan Platform-based Gig Workers (Registration and Welfare) Bill, 2023, should be welcomed, even if it will be introduced before the Assembly elections later this year. While the draft Bill envisages a "welfare board" that will design welfare policies and hear grievances of gig workers on a piece rate basis, the specificities of the policies and how they might benefit the workers are still unclear. The board is expected to work towards a social welfare corpus which will be financed by a cess on the digital transactions made by consumers on the platforms that utilise the gig worker labour. This schema is not unfamiliar – platform workers in the transport sector in Thailand and Malaysia, for instance, benefit from health and accident insurance as well as social security that is financed by a deduction of 2% for every ride. Recently, the Union government passed the Code on Social Security (one of four labour codes), which also allowed for some social security for gig workers, but the scheme only remains on paper without proper implementation. If Rajasthan's pioneering draft Bill takes off, other States could be compelled to utilise similar measures to ensure the welfare of gig workers.

Second innings hopes

Biden needs to do more than present himself as an alternative to Trump

U.S. President Joe Biden, 80, has announced that he will be seeking re-election in the 2024 presidential polls, a goal which, if he succeeds, will ensure that the Democrat breaks his own 2020 record of being the oldest ever U.S. President. With Vice-President Kamala Harris, of joint Indian-African heritage, throwing her hat in the ring again as Mr. Biden's running mate, and with former President, Republican Donald Trump, 76, already in the fray as the frontrunner conservative candidate, it is likely that the contest may revert to a scenario similar to the one seen in 2020. While that would not be an unprecedented outcome in U.S. political history – it happened before with Benjamin Harrison and Grover Cleveland in 1888 and 1892; William Bryan and William McKinley in 1896 and 1900; and with Adlai Stevenson and Dwight Eisenhower in 1952 and 1956 – this would only be the fourth such instance of repeat presidential candidates in the post-Civil War period. Such an eventuality would also raise the question of why, within the Democratic and Republican Parties, there appears to be a paucity of charismatic and capable leaders who could offer a fresh take on the myriad of policy issues that beset the country and have bitterly polarised the electorate.

It is significant that Mr. Biden's campaign announcement video began with visuals of the January 6, 2021 Capitol attack, indicating that the incumbent sees his second bid for the Oval Office as a projection of the alternative to Mr. Trump's MAGA vision and would seek to emphasise the very threat to democracy that the idea of the "stolen election" of 2020 poses. In truth – and this may be a lesson to the Biden campaign that becomes apparent as the coming 18 months before the next election roll by – Mr. Biden may have to do far more than simply be an alternative. Not only would he have to "finish the job" on matters such as levying higher tax on the wealthiest Americans, stabilising the social security system, tackling inflationary threats, keeping up the momentum on job creation and providing humane yet practical immigration policy solutions, but he would also have to reckon with the fact that the worst of the pandemic effects have passed and the Russian invasion of Ukraine has moved beyond the one-year mark. In this new reality, for whichever among the 46th and 45th Presidents prevails in 2024, there will be a pressing need for blue-sky thinking on profound questions regarding public health and biosecurity; on NATO's role in Europe and the challenges of coordinating between European powers to eventually end the war in Ukraine; and the eternal question of how to keep America at the forefront of technological innovation and jobs.

The challenge of reviving a sense of fraternity

Hamid Ansari

was the Vice-President of India (2007-2017)

The Constitution of India was drafted by the Constituent Assembly. The idea was initially proposed in December 1934 by M.N. Roy, a pioneer of the Communist movement in India and an advocate of radical democracy. It became an official demand of the Indian National Congress in 1935 and was officially adopted in the Lucknow session in April 1936 presided by Jawaharlal Nehru, who also drafted the Objectives Resolution. The proceedings of the Constituent Assembly show the richness of ideas that characterised it. The Drafting Committee was presided over by B.R. Ambedkar.

'Common brotherhood'

In the concluding session of the Committee, on November 25, 1949, B.R. Ambedkar drew attention to a lacuna in the draft. "The second thing we are wanting in is recognition of the principle of fraternity. What does fraternity mean? Fraternity means a sense of common brotherhood of all Indians – if Indians being one people. It is the principle which gives unity and solidarity to social life. It is a difficult thing to achieve...."

He added elsewhere that 'without fraternity[,] equality and liberty will be no deeper than coats of paint'; that fraternity has been most forgotten in our Constitution and in our electoral process, that in turn are reproduced in our hearts and homes. The idea of fraternity is closely linked to that of social solidarity, which is impossible to accomplish without public empathy.

So along with liberty, equality and justice, fraternity was added to the principles in the Preamble. There was little discussion nor was it sufficiently clarified that a sense of fraternity enriches and strengthens the gains emanating from the other three.

Those in the audience familiar with the history of the French Revolution might have recalled with some disquiet the message of the 1792 Edict of Fraternity ('All governments are our enemies, all people our friends'). Only Acharya Kripalani, on October 17, 1949, drew attention to some implications. He pointed out that the contents of the Preamble were not only legal and political principles but also had a moral, spiritual and mystical content: "If we want to use democracy as only a legal, constitutional and formal device, I submit, we shall fail.... the whole country should understand the moral, the spiritual and the mystic implication of the word democracy... If we have not done that, we shall fail as they have failed in other countries. Democracy will be made into autocracy and it will be made into imperialism, and it will be made into fascism. But as a moral principle, it must be lived in life. It is not lived in life, and the whole of it in all its departments, it becomes only a formal and a legal principle.

> It cannot be prescribed in formal terms alone; it has to be imbibed individually and collectively, which is the challenge today

A duty

What duties emanate from it? How are they to be undertaken in practice? The text of the Constitution dilates at length on the implication of other principles and on the duties arising from them; not so on fraternity. In fact, Article 51A, on Fundamental Duties, added to by the 42nd Amendment in 1977 and further amended by 86th Amendment in 2010, evaded it except by Article 51A(e) generally that referred to the duty of every citizen 'to promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood amongst all the people of India'.

This has wider ramifications and, as pointed out by Sir Ernest Barker in a seminal work lauding the Constitution of India, a distinction has to be made between the psychological fact of common emotion and the political principle of fraternity or co-operation. 'Fraternity is a dubious word, which may be used to denote both emotion and principle but is perhaps generally used to denote emotion rather than principle...the emotion of loyalty to the state and the emotion of nationalism for national society are, or should be, controlled emotions.'

In such a discussion, it is useful to recall the difference between being and becoming. Being designates a state, something which continues unchanged through time while becoming designates an event, a change of state, an act of cultivation. There is also, as Rajeev Bhargava has argued, 'a pressing need to excavate the moral values embedded in the Constitution to bring out their connections, and to identify the coherent or not-so-coherent worldviews contained within it.'

Three years later, and after some experience of the working of a nascent democratic system that he had helped to put in place (and in which disagreements on critical questions led to his resignation from the government), B.R. Ambedkar devoted himself to this arduous task of 'excavation', in a lecture on December 1952 aptly titled 'Conditions Precedent for the Successful Working of Democracy'. Listed first were certain general characteristics: democracy is prone to change form and purpose and its purpose in our times 'is not so much to put a curb on an autocratic king as to bring about welfare of the people'. It is a method of government by discussion that brings about revolutionary changes in the economic and social life of people without bloodshed. Some specifics were listed to bring this about: there must not be glaring inequalities in society, there must also be an opposition, an equality in law as well as equal protection of law, and administration and observance of constitutional morality. There must be no tyranny of the majority over the minority. Above all, a functioning moral order in society and a public conscience are essential. This same social necessity is present in B.R. Ambedkar's righteousness or dharma, tinged as it was by his evolving religious perceptions.

The ground reality on each of these counts gives a different reading. Inequalities continue to persist and so do those emanating from the caste system; the democratic opposition has progressively declined in substance, equality in law does not necessarily mean equal protection of the law, and little regard is paid to constitutional morality. Each of Gandhiji's Seven Social Sins (inscribed on a tablet at Rajghat) seem to hold good in the functioning of the polity.

An unavoidable virtue

India's existential reality is one of immense diversity. There is also an unfortunate legacy of violence at birth that persists and takes different forms. This necessitates the functioning in practice of these principles in all their diversity and in individual and collective terms. Without imputing infallibility, a sense of fraternity as an essential virtue is thus unavoidable. This cannot be merely in formal terms and has to be imbibed individually and collectively. Nor can it merely be a legal or formal venture and must ascend to what Acharya Kripalani described as a moral and spiritual content. A legislative shape to it, however, is yet to be given beyond the wording of Article 51A(e) - a 'duty' notionally in the shape of a pious hope without going beyond the consequences of the non-observance of other duties specified in this Article.

The challenge today is to invest our democracy with this moral content at the individual and collective levels. It has to take the shape of an imperative; a failure to do so would expose us to the threat of fragmentation. Its consequences should not be guessed.

Virtual digital assets, India's stand and the way ahead

R. Venkatesh

is Senior Vice-President and Head of Public Policy, CoinSwitch

Rulemaking is an arduous task. Oftentimes, the words in a gazette take a form of their own in the real world, diverging from the intent. This can be particularly challenging in the case of emerging technologies, where change is rapid and constant.

Consider the infamous Red Flag Act the United Kingdom introduced at the advent of motorcars. It mandated that every motorcar had to have three "drivers": one at the wheel, the second, a fellow passenger, and the third, on foot, holding a red flag to alert oncoming horse-drawn carriages. Ostensibly established in the interest of safety, the Act only ended up strengthening the motorcar industry elsewhere in Europe. It was ultimately repealed in 1896, clearing the path for the golden era of the British motorcar industry and icons such as Rolls-Royce.

The advent of new technologies, in fact, often evokes Red Flag Acts of their own. History is replete with many such laws – from the Internet to mobile phones, innovations were often curtailed. Today, there are calls for the prohibition of artificial intelligence and blockchain technologies.

A considered approach

It is, therefore, heartening to see India taking a measured approach to regulating virtual digital assets. A prominent, and far-reaching, update has been India's recent notification extending the anti-money laundering provisions to virtual digital assets businesses and service providers. On March 7, the Union Finance Ministry, in a gazette notification, extended these activities under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) Act of 2002: exchange between virtual digital assets and fiat currencies; exchange between one or more forms of virtual digital assets; transfer of virtual digital assets; safekeeping or administration of virtual digital assets or instruments enabling control over virtual digital assets; and participation in and provision of financial services related to an issuer's offer and sale of a virtual digital asset.

> A progressive regulatory framework has the potential to establish India's virtual digital assets leadership

This means virtual digital assets platforms carrying out the said activities will now have to register as a reporting entity with the Financial Intelligence Unit-India. The unit is the national agency to strengthen India's efforts against money laundering and terror financing. Reporting entity platforms such as CoinSwitch are now mandated to implement know your customer, record and monitor all transactions, and report to the Financial Intelligence Unit-India as and when any suspicious activity is detected.

This is a step in the right direction. Such rules are already applicable to banks, financial institutions and certain intermediaries in the securities and real estate markets. Extending them to virtual digital assets provides virtual digital assets platforms with a framework to diligently monitor and take actions against malpractices. A standardisation of such norms will go a long way in making the Indian virtual digital assets sector transparent. It will also build confidence and assurance in the ecosystem, and give the government more oversight on virtual digital asset transactions, which will be a win-win for all.

Reconsider tax rates

Such risk-mitigation measures are in line with global guidelines put forward by the International Monetary Fund and the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). FATF, in fact, has a comprehensive definition of Virtual Asset Service Providers (VASPs) – an extensive list covering intermediaries, brokers, exchanges, custodians, hedge funds, and even mining pools.

Such guidelines acknowledge the role VASPs play in regulating and monitoring the virtual digital assets ecosystem. VASPs are the most efficient bridges and eyes for regulators to effectively implement Anti-Money Laundering/Countering/Combating the Financing of Terror principles. Through the latest PMLA notification, India too has acknowledged this.

This could also be the basis for India to reconsider its tax treatment of virtual digital assets, which is an outlier, both domestically and internationally. After all, with the PMLA notification now mitigating the most critical money laundering and terror financing risks, there is little reason for the tax rates to be as prohibitively high as they are.

Perhaps there is an opportunity to bring virtual digital assets taxes on a par with other asset classes. Reducing the tax arbitrage *vis-à-vis* other economies will also help stem the flight of capital, consumers, investments, and talent, as well as dent the grey economy for virtual digital assets.

Using the G-20 platform

This is also significant, given India's presidency of the G-20. The finance track of the G-20 is spearheading critical discussions on establishing a global regulatory framework for virtual digital assets. India's leadership and experience is key here. There is also an opportunity to consider the steps taken by other G-20 nations. In Asia, Japan and South Korea have established a framework to licence VASPs, while in Europe, the Markets in Crypto-Assets (MiCA) regulation has been passed by the European Parliament.

Even as India spearheads global coordination, ushering greater oversight on the domestic virtual digital assets ecosystem could provide much-needed assurance to everyday users as well as regulators. Going forward, a progressive regulatory framework will instil the animal spirit in India's innovation economy and establish India's virtual digital assets leadership – a lot like how Rolls-Royce rekindled the British manufacturing industry in the early 20th century.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Labour and output

The DMK government's move to amend the Factories Act, 1948 to increase daily working hours for labour — it is now on hold — is not worthy of what is called the 'Dravidian model of governance'. That development economist Jean Drèze has been explicit in saying that the Tamil Nadu government did not consult the Economic Advisory Council, is a matter of concern ('Tamil Nadu', April 26). Looked at from the human angle, such an idea diminishes intrinsic human worth and constitutes an infringement of hard-won labour rights. Labour laws should not be inimical to the interests of the labouring classes. Overwork cannot be justified in the name of accelerating production. The need to attract investment or boost manufacturing cannot be met at the cost of health and dignity. Workers who live by their labour should not be made a casualty to the profit-making of employers (read rapacious corporate behemoths).

G. David Milton,
Maruthancode, Tamil Nadu

Parkash Singh Badal

An era in the contemporary political history of Punjab has ended with the passing of Parkash Singh Badal (Inside pages, April 26). The secret of his political standing lay in his tremendous grassroots connect with the ordinary worker, cementing his credentials as a mass leader. He was respected across the political spectrum, and his contributions to society and his unwavering commitment to the welfare of the people of Punjab will be remembered for years to come. The fact is that he belonged to a class of politicians that is hard to find in today's age.

Ramesh G. Jethwani,
Bengaluru

Garbage disposal

I have been living near Arunachala, in Tiruvannamalai, for 30 years — a period that has seen the Girivallam road being transformed from a mud road to an asphalt road that is very well maintained especially during full moon when lakhs visit the place. However, there is the issue of garbage collection. Garbage is being disposed of in a lake near a granite quarry, which is close to where I live. Garbage disposal in a water body is senseless. We live to the west of a mountain, where there is no proper dumpsite for garbage.
Apparently, the District Collector has asked the tahsildar to enable space for garbage disposal but there is no application of mind as can be seen in the way garbage is being disposed of.
There needs to be a proper dumpsite; there is already a site planned, but action is not forthcoming. There need to be modern facilities at the site to enable composting, recycling and even garbage burning with an incinerator.

Jens Ruff,
Tiruvannamalai, Tamil Nadu

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Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

The third-gen web is about public good

A. Damodaran

is Distinguished Professor, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations, New Delhi. Views expressed are personal

There is a pervasive notion that the third-generation web is biased towards the gaming and cryptocurrency industry. However, a 2021 report by the U.S.- India Strategic Partnership Forum states that the third-gen web will be crucial for India to realise its $1.1 trillion digital asset opportunity by 2032.

From a policy perspective, the next-gen web is complex. Part of the problem lies with the diverse descriptors employed by experts. Also, the web's immense social relevance is hard to comprehend.

Web 3 is not Web 3.0

Some experts term the third-gen web as 'Web3', while others use the descriptor 'Web 3.0'. For web-tech buffs, Web3 is decentralised, privacy-oriented, blockchain-driven and crypto-asset friendly; while Web 3.0 upholds the property of the 'semantic web,' which is powered by Artificial Intelligence (AI). The real point about the semantic web is its ability to recombine information available on different websites to generate new content and knowledge resources that are more authentic and creative. Followers of Web 3.0 claim that their version is endowed with robust capability on the data analytics front. This way, it is argued that Web 3.0 will create far better search engines.

Of the two variants, Web3 seeks to radically transform the manner in which data is generated, monetised, shared and circulated. Further, it advocates decentralised data storage systems with the objective of unshackling the oligopolistic grip of technology behemoths over data. Web3 has file-sharing systems such as the Inter-Planetary File System which are cryptographically protected, more secure and capable of functioning off Internet and off blockchains. In this manner, Web3 seeks to overcome the data storage barriers of blockchains.

Web3's boldest element is the strategic role it assigns to non-custodial wallets that function as digital passports for users to access blockchain-enabled transaction platforms. These wallets aid the creation of a 'ownership economy,' whereby creators themselves control their content. Fundamentally, they work as the digital proof of identity.

Web3 seeks to replace micro-economic organisations with decentralised autonomous organisations (DAOs). At a more macro level, it seeks to create a distributed economic system, where special classes of native digital tokens and cryptocurrencies would form the media of monetary circulation. In general, Web3 platforms would serve to raise the efficiency of peer-to-peer transactions.

Apart from utility tokens that enable users to access life support services, Web3 systems also seek to generate fungible digital assets to reward local providers of data storage capacity for their services. Asset tokens that are native to the new-gen web have the potential to function as capital mobilisation tools for Web3 projects. Likewise, stakeholders of DAOs can utilise tokens to exercise their voting rights. The NFTs of Web3 are more dynamic as they seek to incorporate improvements brought in by incremental innovations.

How India can benefit

India's handcraft industry is renowned for design-related innovations, many of which are not protected by Intellectual Property rights. The digital tokens minted by Web 3 platforms would enable our handcraft enterprises to secure their innovations. Web 3-based instruction tools enable the rapid dissemination of grassroots innovations from master artisans to fellow members, which would improve the economic fortunes of craftsmen and artisan communities in north-east, western and peninsular India.

India's major digital public infrastructure push and the large-scale deployment of Internet of Things (IoT) in rural development projects offer major possibilities for deploying Web 3 in rural areas. One of the understated facts of India's transformation story in recent times has been the rapid rise of community data. The Atal Bhujal Yojana is an important source of data on groundwater utilisation practices and aquifer contamination, although this resource remains largely untapped for want of data analytics capabilities at the community level. This limitation can be overcome by Web3's (decentralised) analytics systems. Web 3.0 can also yield insights from large volumes of community data, generated by IoT-enabled development programmes such as the Jal Jeevan Mission. Web 3.0's natural advantage of facilitating 'analytics at the edge' provides considerable scope for mapping the water use habits of communities. Similarly, early warning systems for floods will improve with Web 3.0 due to data analytics facilities being obtained at the sub-basin level. Thus Web 3.0 will have a transformative role in regionally disadvantaged areas.

One constraint today is the inability of data analytics capabilities to catch up with the pace of data generation in rural areas. India has a rapidly expanding pool of data analytics and web design talent. By providing incentives for decentralised analytics and tokenising them (as envisaged in Web 3), it is possible to draw upon the talent pool for the benefit of rural communities.

Indeed, India's National Blockchain Strategy 2021 proposes to explore tokenisation and apply blockchains solutions for development programmes. It will be a natural progression for India to craft a third-gen web strategy that optimises public interest. Such a strategy should seek to combine the welcome features of Web3 and Web 3.0.

India's major digital public infrastructure push and the deployment of Internet of Things in rural development projects offer possibilities for deploying Web 3 in rural areas

Schism within the church is deepening

The perception that the Catholic church is uniting with the BJP is gaining ground

STATE OF PLAY

S. Anandan
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The weeks following Easter have been a political rollercoaster for the Christian community – more precisely, the Catholic Church – in Kerala.

Easter day dawned with Cardinal George Alencherry, Major Archbishop of the Syro Malabar Church headquartered in Ernakulam, praising Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership and contending, much to the chagrin of sections of the faithful, that Christians are safe in India.

The Syro Malabar Church, with some 45 lakh members, has been a divided house for some time with an organisation of lay people under the Ernakulam-Angamaly Archdiocese unsuccessfully demanding the Cardinal's scalp over a series of controversial land deals. While the Catholic apex tribunal gave a clean chit to the Cardinal last week, he is facing trial in criminal cases related to these deals. The Enforcement Directorate, too, initiated an inquiry into them as possible instances of money laundering. This apart, the Cardinal and the Synod of the church have been facing stiff resistance from groups of laity and priests over the way the Mass should be celebrated.

It was in early 2020 that the Synod of the church raised an alarm about 'love jihad'. While the dubitable expression has been officially shelved thereafter, Catholic bishops have time and again made anti-Muslim jibes such as 'narcotics jihad' while increasingly parleying with leaders of the BJP. A few weeks before Cardinal Alencherry offered his Easter musings on the BJP, Bishop Joseph

Pamplany of the same church offered to remedy the party's inability to have a Lok Sabha member from Kerala if the Centre raised the base price of natural rubber to ₹300 per kg.

It was only natural, therefore, for some Catholic priests and laity groups to ascribe a pattern to these developments. Almaya Munnettam, a group of reform-minded Catholics in the Ernakulam-Angamaly Archdiocese, slammed these statements, and even equated Bishop Pamplany with Judas. Satyadeepam, a weekly published from the Ernakulam-Angamaly Archdiocese with some five lakh members, reminded the church leadership about the rise in attacks by Hindu militants on churches and Christians elsewhere in India. The publication pointed to the unkind treatment meted out to Jesuit priest Stan Swamy and why Christian groups were forced to hold a demonstration in Delhi in February. It accused the church leadership of being complicit in the crimes against Christians by extending "unquestioning" hospitality to Mr. Modi, who maintains a "criminal silence" on attacks on the community, when he visited the Sacred Heart Cathedral in Delhi on Easter. The Latin Catholic Church expressed the concern that thoughtless statements by church leaders could give rise to the perception that the Catholic church is closing ranks with the BJP.

Notably, that perception is gaining ground and the schism within the church is deepening every time a church leader provides an uncharacteristic political signal. Their detractors within the church read these signals as an offshoot of some bishops being investigated for alleged wrongdoing, some fretting about donation channels, and some being driven by plain Islamophobia or opportunism.

All this has worked to the advantage of the BJP, which has created a sustained channel of communication with some Church leaders in its bid to split Christian votes in central Kerala. Recently, eight bishops from different Christian denominations met Mr. Modi in Kochi and were told about the BJP's partnership with Christians in the Northeast and in Goa. Some of them sought action to prevent violence targeting Christians.

Be that as it may, the BJP has not been able to win over any tall leader from the community in Kerala so far. The induction of Anil Antony, a novice leader and the son of veteran Congress leader A.K. Antony, into the BJP helped build some perception about the party's growth.

Meanwhile, a new political outfit named National Progressive Party (NPP) has come into being in central Kerala. A predominantly Christian party helmed by leaders who exited Kerala Congress (Joseph), which wields influence among Christians in Idukki and Kottayam, the NPP has set its sights on settler-farmers and echoes Bishop Pamplany's demand. Though dismissed as spent forces, these leaders are said to enjoy the tacit backing of some church leaders and are bracing to mobilise a convention of one lakh people soon as a show of strength.

The distribution and utilisation of water bodies in India

The majority of water bodies serve as resources for fish farming

DATA POINT

The Hindu Data Team

A government report released last week has thrown light on the number of water bodies in India and what they are used for. The document, which was released by the Ministry of Jal Shakthi, is the first such census of water bodies in India. The census has identified 24,24,540 water bodies in India.

Water bodies in this census are defined as any natural or man-made structures used for storing water for various purposes, such as irrigation, industry, fish farming, domestic use, recreation, religious activities, and groundwater recharge. They are classified as tanks, reservoirs and ponds. A structure that collects water from melting ice, streams, springs, rain, or drainage from residential or other areas, or stores water diverted from a stream, nala, or river, is also considered a water body.

As shown in **Chart 1**, ponds comprise 59.5% (1,442,993) of water bodies, followed by tanks at 15.7% (381,805), reservoirs at 12.1% (292,280), water conservation projects such as percolation tanks and check dams at 9.3% (226,217), lakes at 0.9% (22,361), and other types at 2.5% (58,884).

West Bengal boasts of the highest number of ponds and reservoirs; Andhra Pradesh the highest number of tanks; and Tamil Nadu the highest number of lakes. Maharashtra leads in terms of water conservation initiatives. A mobile application designed for this task was used to capture pictures of the water bodies along with their latitude and longitude coordinates. **Map 2** shows the location of the ponds, lakes, tanks, reservoirs and water conservation schemes. Each dot corresponds with approximately 500 such water bodies.

The majority of water bodies serve as resources for fish farming, with their subsequent uses including irrigation, replenishing groundwater, and providing water for household and drinking needs. Among the total 20,30,040 utilised water bodies, 55.5% (11,26,830) are dedicated to fish farming, 16.5% (3,35,768) to irrigation, 12.1% (2,44,918) to groundwater replenishment, and 10.1% (2,05,197) to domestic and drinking water needs. The remaining are employed for recreational, industrial, religious and other purposes.

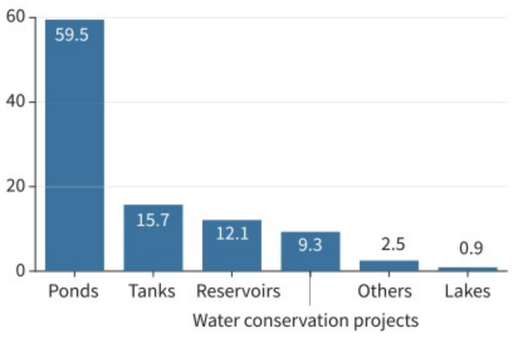
Chart 3 shows the usage of water bodies across States. In general, the east and the north-east use most of the water bodies for fish farming. More than 50% of the water bodies are used for fish farming in the north-eastern States of Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Tripura, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Assam and the eastern States of West Bengal and Odisha. Over 50% of the water bodies are used for irrigation in Gujarat, Telangana, Karnataka and Jharkhand. In Manipur and Himachal Pradesh, more than 50% are used for drinking. Industrial usage is minimal in all the States. Over 10% of the water bodies in Sikkim are used for recreational purposes. Over 50% of the water bodies are used for groundwater recharge in Uttarakhand, Punjab and Maharashtra.

A substantial 97.1% of water bodies can be found in rural regions; only 2.9% are situated in urban areas. Of these, 83.7% are in use, while the rest are non-functional or unused due to factors such as construction, siltation, irreparable damage, and industrial effluents, among others. Of the total water bodies, 55.2%are privately owned; the rest are publicly owned. A significant number (78%) of water bodies are artificially created. A total of 1.6% water bodies have been encroached upon, of which 67.6% are ponds, 21% are tanks, and 4.5% involve water conservation schemes, check dams, or percolation tanks. The remaining 6.9% comprise lakes, reservoirs, and other types of water bodies.

Charted waters

The charts and maps are based on the data collated from the first census report of water bodies released by the Ministry of Jal Shakti and the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Minor Irrigation (Statistics) Wing

Chart 1 | The chart shows the types of water bodies (in %) across India



Map 2 | The map shows the location of ponds, lakes, tanks, reservoirs and water conservation projects

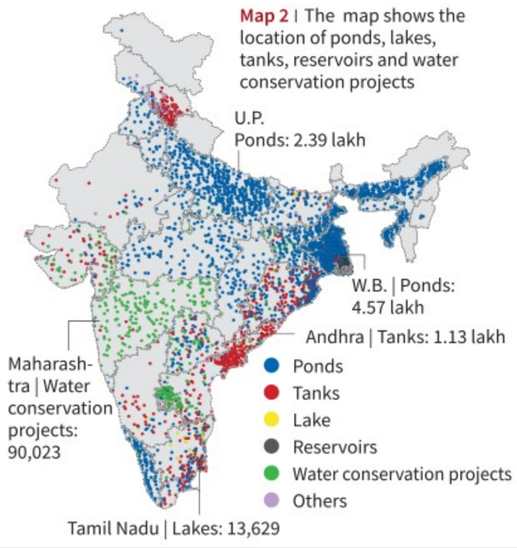
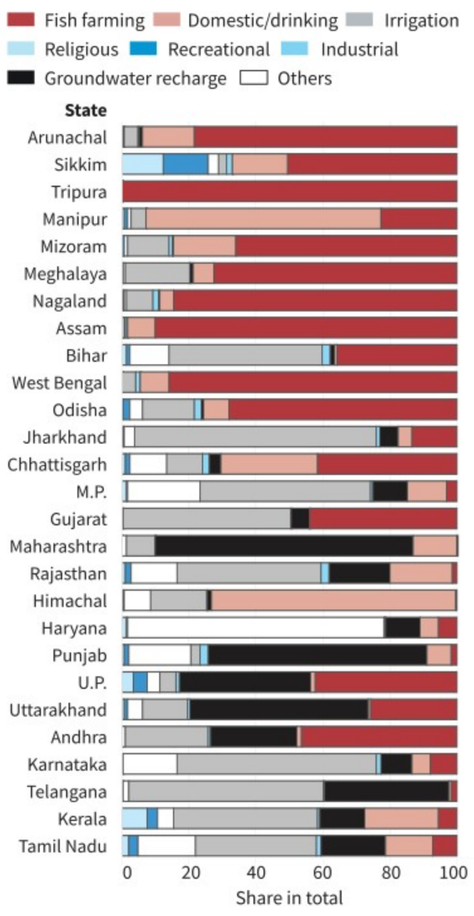


Chart 3 | The chart shows the usage of water bodies (in %) across States



FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO APRIL 27, 1973

Jagjivan Ram cautions Maneskshaw

New Delhi, April 26: The Defence Minister, Mr. Jagjivan Ram, expressed the hope in the Lok Sabha to-day that Field Marshal Manekshaw would take note of the views expressed by the members in statements and interviews and conduct himself in such a manner as to not provide any ocassion for anybody in the House or outside to take note of his statements. Mr. Jagjivan Ram, who was replying to the debate on the Defence Ministry's demands, would not make any comment of his own, but said the views expressed by the members should be adequate for the purpose. He added these views should be an adequate education to the Field Marshal. During the seven-hour debate a large number of members from all sections of the House referred to the Field Marshal's interviews to a London daily and a Delhi magazine and expressed their strong disapproval of his statements. (The Field Marshal is reported to have said during the interviews in a lighter note that if he had chosen Mr. Jinnah's invitation to opt for Pakistan in 1947 "you would have a defeated India" in 1971.) Asked about the Field Marshal's position, Mr. Jagjivan Ram said that after his retirement the Field Marshal had no official capacity in the Defence Ministry. He held no official post or appointment. He did not require the permission of the Government to hold his press conference. He was a free citizen of a free country. When members interrupted to refer to the Field Marshal's ambitions, the Minister said every man had his ambitions.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO APRIL 27, 1923

Silver market

London, April 25: Montagu's report states the tendency of silver prices has been upward during the week. The key to the present situation is continued enquiry from China, chiefly directed to the American market. The speculative position in Shanghai cannot be considered to be founded on trade requirements. Possibly some of the attitude of Chinese operators may be ascribed to the measure of uneasiness regarding the political situation, the vagaries of which are perennial. The market has been bereft of supplies from America and consequently moderate orders from bazaars in India have considerably affected the prices.

From Page One

10 jawans killed by Maoists in Dantewada

It remains unclear why a civilian was driving the vehicle full of policemen, or whether the vehicle was a private civilian one.

The deceased jawans were members of the District Reserve Guard (DRG), a locally-raised force designed to carry out anti-Maoist operations. They have been identified as Joga Sothi, Munnaram Kadti, Santosh Tamo, Dulgo Mandavi, Lakhmu Markam, Joga Kawasi, Hariram Mandavi, Rajuram Kartam, Jairam Podiyam and Jagdish Kawasi. The civilian driver was Dhaniram Yadav.

With this incident, the number of security forces killed by Maoists in Chhattisgarh in the first four months this year has touched at least 17, almost twice the nine casualties reported in 2022.

Security experts say that between February and June, Maoists conduct a tactical counter-offensive campaign, during which they target security forces, before the onset of the monsoon makes attacks difficult in the Bastar region.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, and others expressed their condolences to the families of those killed in the attack. "Strongly condemn the attack in Dantewada. I pay my tributes to the brave personnel we lost in the attack. Their sacrifice will always be remembered. My condolences to the bereaved families," Mr. Modi tweeted.

OTT platforms face pressure on content

The second advisory, issued on March 24 this year, warned streaming platforms to exercise "abundant precaution in ensuring that films and web-series... do not fall [a]foul of the... Code of Ethics" that is laid out in the IT Rules.

"Given that the Code of Ethics under Rule 9(1) of the IT Rules, 2021 has been stayed by the Bombay and Madras High Courts, OTT platforms are not bound by the terms thereof," the Internet Freedom Foundation said in a statement to *The Hindu*.

Beyond the government advisories, a self-regulatory body that includes Netflix, Amazon Prime Video and ALTBalaji as members, issued its own internal advisory to streaming firms. The fact that some sites do not have grievance officers or monthly reports of grievances posted on their website does "not appear to be in strict conformity with the law", Justice (Retd.) A.K. Sikri, chairperson of the Digital Publisher Content Grievances Council's Grievance Redressal Board, said in an advisory to streaming platforms on April 10.

I&B Minister Anurag Thakur recently warned streaming services, which have largely stopped releasing mainstream series and shows with politically or religiously sensitive themes, that they should not make content that offends Indian cultural sensibilities. The Ministry did not respond to *The Hindu*'s queries on the legal aspects of its advisories after the High Court stays.

As recently as Wednesday, Mr. Thakur said at an event, "There are multiple complaints about the kind of content that should not be on TV, that is shown on OTT." This comes even though the redressal board received zero appeals on content complaints in February and March, and just one complaint each in the two months before that, according to disclosures on their website.

Biggest attack by Maoists in Chhattisgarh in two years

Officials say they lack proper technology to detect IEDs while the extremists have been avoiding direct combat; tri-junction of Chhattisgarh, Telangana and Odisha has been a vulnerable point

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Deadly attack: Arms and ammunition recovered in a search conducted by security forces after a blast in Dantewada district of Chhattisgarh on Wednesday. PTI

The Maoist ambush on Wednesday has highlighted what is seen as the last major challenge for security forces in Chhattisgarh – foiling improvised explosive device (IED) attacks in the forested tri-junction in Bastar region.

Security officials cite the lack of foolproof technology to detect IEDs and the increasing desperation of Maoists, who are avoiding direct combat with the forces, for such incidents.

The latest attack was the biggest strike by the extremists on the security forces in the State in the past two years. Ten District Reserve Guard (DRG) personnel and a driver were killed when the extremists blew up their vehicle in the Aranpur area of Dantewada district.

The tri-junction of Chhattisgarh, Telangana and Odisha located right at the southern tip of Sukma district in the south Bastar region is an area that witnesses the highest number of such incidents including the deadly 2010 Maoist ambush in Dantewada where 75 CRPF and one Chhattisgarh police personnel were killed.

The Centre has maintained that left-wing extremism (LWE) has almost been wiped out in Jharkhand and Bihar after sustained operations, noting that violence has come down by 77% in just over a decade.

"South Bastar region and its bordering areas and the IEDs are the last Maoist bastions to be breached. Forces are working towards this goal," a Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) officer said.

Trinamool MLAs in Meghalaya in talks with BJP

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

A Minister in the Conrad K. Sangma government has triggered speculation over the MLAs of Trinamool Congress merging with the BJP in Meghalaya.

Animal Welfare and Veterinary Minister Alexander Laloo Hek confirmed his meeting with the Trinamool's State unit president, Charles Pyngrope, and former Chief Minister Mukul M. Sangma, following reports that the Trinamool legislators were planning to switch over to change their political fortunes.

"We had an informal conversation over tea," Mr. Hek said, admitting that a possible merger of Trinamool legislators with the BJP was one of the topics discussed.

Need for state action was felt in triple talaq issue, Centre tells SC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The government has reasoned that it had to introduce a law criminalising triple talaq as Muslim men continued the practice in spite of a Supreme Court judgment declaring it illegal.

The government's 177-page affidavit recently filed in the top court came in response to a series of petitions which have challenged the constitutionality of the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act, 2019, which makes the pronouncement of triple talaq an offence punishable with three years' imprisonment.

Countering arguments that the government went overboard to criminalise triple talaq when the court had only made it "void", the government said it was not for the court to say "less than what was done might have been enough". It was "irrelevant" to argue that the provisions of the Act was more drastic than the occasion demanded.

The petitions against the 2019 Act include one by Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind, which has argued that while a Muslim man would suffer imprisonment for pronouncing triple talaq, a non-bailable offence, a man from another faith could desert his wife without fearing punishment. Desertion was at best a ground for divorce. The organisation said the law has made the declaration of triple talaq an offence graver than crimes such as rioting, kidnapping, death by negligence, concealment of birth by secret disposal of body, bribery and so on.

Northern Command chief visits Poonch

The Hindu Bureau
JAMMU

The Army's Northern Command chief visited the Rajouri-Poonch sector in Jammu on Wednesday, seven days after militants killed five soldiers in the region.

An Army spokesman said Lieutenant-General Upendra Dwivedi, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Northern Command, visited Rajouri and Poonch and reviewed operational preparedness. "He took stock of the ongoing operations," he said.

The police suspect the role of local people in providing logistics to the attackers. Officials said over 50 local people were questioned by the security forces to identify those who had supported the attackers. No attacker has been identified or arrested.

INBRIEF

Mamata to attach properties of police station attackers

As more videos related to the attack on the Kaliaganj police station in West Bengal's Uttar Dinajpur district surfaced, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday directed the police to take stern action including attaching the properties of those involved in the violence. A mob, while protesting against the death of a teenager, attacked the Kaliaganj police station and set it on fire on Tuesday. The Chief Minister, while directing the police to take strong action including attaching property of the accused in the violence blamed the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for the violence. The State BJP leadership has maintained that they do not support violence against the police but have blamed the mishandling of the situation by the administration for the violence.

Ayurveda physicians not on a par with allopathy doctors: SC

The Supreme Court on Wednesday set aside a Gujarat High Court order which had held that Ayurveda practitioners working in government hospitals should be treated on a par with allopathy doctors and entitled to equal pay. The top court was hearing a batch of appeals challenging a 2012 Gujarat High Court order which had held that Ayurveda practitioners are entitled to be treated on a par with doctors with MBBS degrees. While recognising the importance of Ayurveda practitioners and the need to promote alternative or indigenous systems of medicine, the top court said it could not be oblivious of the fact that both categories of doctors were certainly not performing equal work to be entitled to equal pay. The Bench said allopathy doctors were required to perform emergency duties and provide trauma care. PTI

Non-bailable warrants issued against 23 militants in J&K

Non-bailable warrants were issued against 23 active militants hailing from the Chenab Valley's Kishtwar district, and operating from Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) on Wednesday in J&K. Chief Investigation Officer, DySP Vishal Sharma, had approached the Special NIA Court for issuing non-bailable warrants against these accused for "their active involvement in terror activities for creating unrest in the Chenab Valley and other parts of Jammu and Kashmir." "They mobilised sleeper cells and pushed them into J&K in connivance with secessionist and separatist leaders for waging war against the Government of India with nefarious design of seceding Jammu and Kashmir from Union of India," Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Kishtwar, Khalil Poswal said.

Delhi Police seek time for 'inquiry' before registering FIR against MP Brij Bhushan

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Police officers who refused to register wrestlers' complaint must be prosecuted, says Kabil Sibal

The Delhi Police in the Supreme Court on Wednesday said they "felt" that "some preliminary inquiry" may be needed before registering an FIR on the sexual harassment complaints of top women wrestlers against Wrestling Federation of India president and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh.

The intervention by the police came within 24 hours of a Bench led by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud remarking that the allegations were "serious". Seven women wrestlers had urgently moved the Supreme Court. The court has listed the case on Friday.

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, in his urgent mentioning for the police on Wednesday, seemed to give a reason for the non-registration of the FIR by highlighting the "need" for a "preliminary enquiry".

But the law officer, in the same breath, added that if the court felt an FIR was required to be registered immediately, the police would definitely do so.

Chief Justice Chandrachud advised him to be present when the case is taken up for hearing on Friday. "Mr. Solicitor, if you need us to see any material, you can bring it to us. We will see... This case involves a minor," Chief Justice Chandrachud addressed Mr. Mehta.

Prosecuting the police

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, representing the women wrestlers on Tuesday, had pointed out in court that even police officers who had refused to register an FIR ought to be prosecuted.

"FIR is not being registered because the accused is a Member of Parliament of the ruling party... The last of the complaints is by a minor. The young girl was 16 at the time. The accused is the president of the Wrestling Federation of India... Even the police officers can be prosecuted for not registering an offence of this nature," Mr. Sibal submitted on Tuesday.

On Wednesday, Mr. Sibal intervened and said his clients wanted to file an additional affidavit. He said there had been "developments" since the court took the case onboard. The court had explicitly underscored the gravity of the issue in its judicial order on Tuesday.

"There are serious allegations of sexual harassment in the petition, which is instituted by professional international wrestlers who have represented India. The matter requires the consideration of this court in exercise of its jurisdiction under Article 32 of the Constitution," the court had recorded.

Angry with reform delays, India calls UN system 'anachronistic'

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

With another year of meetings on reforming the United Nations – and particularly the question of the expansion of the Security Council – coming to a close in June, India lashed out at the UN system with its most scathing attack thus far.

In a speech at the UNSC this week, the Indian Permanent Representative called the UN Charter "anachronistic", adding that it has failed in handling the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ukraine war, terrorism and climate change.

Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj was speaking at a session convened by Russia that called for a discussion on how to make multilateralism effective "by defending the UN Charter".

Veto for all or none

Ms. Kamboj also called for expanding the Security Council's permanent membership and hit out at the "veto power" given to the "P-5" of the U.S., the U.K., France, Russia and China.

Ruchira Kamboj was speaking at a session on how to make multilateralism effective 'by defending the UN Charter'. FILE PHOTO

"Can we practise 'effective multilateralism' by defending a Charter that makes five nations more equal than others, and provides to each of those five, the power to ignore the collective will of the remaining 188 member states?" Ms. Kamboj asked, at the meeting chaired by Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on Monday. This is the first time India has specifically criticised giving the veto to the P-5, clarifying its stand that in any expansion of the Security Council, the veto must be given to all members, or none.

The tough words in the Indian speech are a reflection of India's frustration at the slow pace of the Inter-Governmental Negotiations (IGN) process, as well as its determination to keep UN reforms at the top of the global body's agenda even though India is not in the Security Council this year, officials said.

The IGN process, which began in 2008 is now in its 15th year, and though a draft text of the reforms proposed was presented in 2015, there is little indication that negotiations on the basis of a text will begin in the near future. Ms. Kamboj also called for a "clear attribution of groups and member states" or naming those who oppose expansion for specific countries, indicating the "United For Consensus" group that includes Argentina, Italy, Mexico, Pakistan and Turkey. All eyes will now be on the next IGN session in June, the last for this year – where national statements of various countries will be "webcast" live for the first time – that will discuss the way forward in the process.

Significantly, at the UNSC meeting this week, many joined India's voice of concern about the process, and about the lack of representation for Africa, South America and Asia. China is the only Asian P-5 member.

Apart from reform, India also called for an urgent review of the UN Charter from 1945, citing Article 109 that had said a "review conference" must be held within a decade of the original charter being adopted.

IAS officers of 1985 batch to oppose letting out Mohan

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The IAS batchmates of G. Krishnaiah, the former District Magistrate of Gopalganj in Bihar who was murdered by a mob led by gangster-turned-politician Anand Mohan Singh in 1994, are exploring legal options to challenge a Bihar government order that would allow the life convict walk out of jail soon.

Krishnaiah was a 1985-batch IAS officer of the Bihar cadre. He was pulled out of his official vehicle and killed by a mob. Belonging to a landless Dalit family in Telangana, he fought all odds to clear the coveted UPSC exam.

One of the retired IAS officers said they were planning to file a petition in the Supreme Court against the Bihar government's order that would pave the way for Mohan's release from jail. The Indian Civil and Administrative (Central) Association, New Delhi on Tuesday issued a statement opposing Bihar government's move.

Gujarat HC judge recuses from hearing Rahul's plea

The Hindu Bureau
AHMEDABAD

Gujarat High Court judge Gita Gopi on Wednesday recused herself from hearing the plea of former Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, who has approached the High Court challenging the Surat sessions court's order declining a stay on the conviction in a criminal defamation case.

On Wednesday, when the criminal revision application of Mr. Gandhi was mentioned by advocate Pankaj Champaneri before Justice Gopi, she recused herself from hearing the plea without citing any reason.

Subsequently, Mr. Champaneri mentioned the matter before the Acting Chief Justice (ACJ) A.J. Desai urging that the matter be assigned to a Bench for hearing on an urgent basis.

According to sources, Mr. Champaneri has urged the ACJ to list the matter on April 29 since the lawyers for Mr. Gandhi will come from out of the State. As on Wednesday evening, there was no clarity about which Bench would hear the petition and when.

Right to marry is not absolute, laws regulate marriage, Centre tells SC

Solicitor-General says the social institution of marriage was shaped by world religions; he adds the legal recognition of same-sex marriage by making Special Marriage Act gender-neutral should be debated in Parliament, and not the court

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Centre on Wednesday argued in the Supreme Court that the right to marry is not an "absolute right" and petitioners cannot compel the state to grant legal status to same-sex marriage through a judicial declaration.

"The right to marry does not include the right to compel the state to include a new definition of marriage... the right to marry, even among heterosexuals, is not an absolute right," Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta began the government's response in the same-sex marriage case.

Mr. Mehta pointed out to a Constitution Bench led by Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud how several provisions across statutes regulate marriage.

'Hold on privacy'

"Law prescribed that a man should marry at 21 years and a woman at 18... now, the law regulates your autonomy here. Bigamy is an offence... here, the law regulates the number of times you can marry. The law even lists the grounds for judicial separation and divorce. Impotence is a ground for divorce... this is a very personal issue. But if it is a ground, you have to spell it out in court for divorce... so, law has a hold on your privacy," Mr. Mehta said.

> A mere judicial declaration recognising same sex marriages would not be enough. The fallout of such a declaration would be too numerous and complex for the court
>
> **TUSHAR MEHTA**
> Solicitor General

He asked how the Supreme Court, in a judgment, would conceive the way all these provisions would apply to same-sex marriage.

"Let us see in the case of age of marriage... we do not know who should be 21 years and who should be 18 years... who is the man and who is the woman," Mr. Mehta submitted.

Mr. Mehta said a mere judicial declaration recognising same-sex marriages would not be enough. The fallout of such a declaration would be too numerous, varied and complex for the court.

Varied views

The Solicitor-General said the legal recognition of same-sex marriage by making Special Marriage Act gender-neutral should ideally be debated in Parliament, and not the court.

"A debate in Parliament will be assisted by national views, views of experts, views on impact, effects and what are the implications on several laws... To my knowledge, there are at least 160 provisions which cannot be reconciled with a changed Special Marriage Act... No one is on value judgment here. We are just saying that Parliament has already accepted their right of choice, autonomy in terms of sexual preference and privacy in terms of the right to intimate relationship between consenting adults," Mr. Mehta submitted.

He said the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019 was the Parliament's response to decriminalisation of homosexuality by the Supreme Court in 2018. The term 'transgender person' in the statute is widely defined to include all spectrums of the LGBTQIA+ community.

He asked the court what the '+' encompassed in the 'LGBTQIA+' community.

"We do not know what the '+' means... There are 72 shades or spectrum or variations... How will you [the court] regulate these varieties of situations... There is 'null gender' and 'fluid gender'... Even for Parliament, it would be a humongous exercise, leave alone for a judgment," Mr. Mehta said. He told the court that "the class you are dealing with is an unidentifiable class".

Mr. Mehta said the social institution of marriage was shaped by world religions.

Religious conformity

"All religions converge, and do not contradict, in their opinion that marriage is at the heart of the foundation of family and society. They believe that children from the marriage are sacred gifts of the marriage... What is recognised as marriage is a heterosexual union," he said.

Mr. Mehta said the lawmakers had "consciously omitted" LGBTQIA+ community from the purview of the Special Marriage Act. "What was not intended by lawmakers cannot be added into the Act," he argued.

The law officer said the court should not become a "super-legislature".

"Though the finest intellects may reflect on this here, they still will not make the will of the people," the government contended.

Modi, leaders pay last respects to former Punjab CM Badal

In memoriam: Narendra Modi pays last respects to SAD senior leader Parkash Singh Badal in Chandigarh on Wednesday. ANI

The Hindu Bureau
CHANDIGARH

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday paid his last respects to former Punjab Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal, 95, who passed away at a private hospital in Mohali on Tuesday after a brief illness.

Mr. Modi paid tributes to the veteran Akali Dal leader at the office of the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), where the mortal remains were kept for people to pay homage. The cremation will take place at 1 p.m. on Thursday at his native Badal village.

Scores of people came together to bid adieu to Mr. Badal. Punjab Governor Banwarilal Purohit and Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar were those who accompanied the Prime Minister to pay homage.

Indian National Lok Dal supremo Om Prakash Chautala, BJP Punjab incharge Vijay Rupani, Leader of the Opposition in Punjab Assembly Partap Singh Bajwa and others also paid tributes.

The Punjab government has declared a holiday on Thursday as a mark of respect.

Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, in his condolence message, said, "Parkash Singh Badal *ji* was a political stalwart who played a significant role in Punjab politics for many decades."

India intends to make healthcare affordable for whole world: Modi

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

"India's goal is to make healthcare accessible and affordable, not only for our citizens but for the whole world," said Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his video message following the inauguration the sixth Edition of "One Earth, One Health – Advantage Health care India 2023" meet on Wednesday.

He said that India's traditional healthcare systems held a lot of answers to stress and lifestyle diseases and called for an integrated, inclusive and institutional global response to healthcare challenges.

"The COVID pandemic showed that borders cannot stop threats to health in a deeply connected world. The once-in-a-century pandemic reminded the world of a number of truths. It showed us that in a deeply connected world, borders cannot stop threats to health,'' he said adding that true progress was people-centric.

Prime Minister says no matter how many advances were made in medicine, access must be assured to the last person at the last mile

Stating that no matter how many advances were made in medical science, he said access must be assured to the last person at the last mile. The Prime Minister said that India was proud to have been a partner to many nations in the noble mission of saving lives through vaccines and medicines.

Holistic wellness

Mr. Modi said that the lack of illness was often equated with good health but India's view of health did not stop at lack of illness. Being free of diseases was just a stage on the way to wellness and the goal was wellness and welfare for everyone and physical, mental and social well-being, he said. "When it comes to holistic healthcare, India has many important strengths like talent, technology, track record and tradition. The world has seen the impact of Indian doctors as they are widely respected for their competence and commitment,'' he said.

Health Ministers of several countries, besides delegates from West Asia, South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation countries, Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the African region, are participating in the two-day conclave that began on Wednesday. Stakeholders from public and private sectors and from professional and academic domains are also participating.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in association with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry has co-branded the 6th edition of "One Earth, One Health - Advantage Healthcare India, 2023" with India's G-20 Presidency.

"At this time when the unity of our country is taking shape through great festivals like 'Saurashtra Tamil Sangamam', Sardar Sahab must have been sending blessings to us all. This celebration of the country's unity is also fulfilling the dreams of lakhs of freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives to see *Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat* [One India, Best India]," Mr. Modi said.

Mr. Modi launched the book *Saurashtra-Tamil Sangamprashastih* by Shree Somnath Sanskrit University.

Mandate of expert panel probing Adani issue is limited, says Congress

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Wednesday reiterated its demand for a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) probe to arrive at the "unvarnished truth" behind the Adani controversy after it emerged that billionaire Gautam Adani's elder brother, Vinod Adani, resigned as director of three companies of the Adani Group's port and mining projects in Australia.

Jairam Ramesh

In a statement, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said that while his party awaited the report of the Supreme Court-appointed expert committee on the "Adani mega scam", it noted that the committee's mandate was limited to violations of securities regulations and that it lacked formal judicial authority over various regulatory and investigative agencies.

'Brazen manipulation'

"Vinod Adani has previously been alleged to have engaged in 'brazen stock manipulation' and 'accounting fraud' via 'a vast labyrinth of offshore shell entities'," he said.

"Likewise in Australia, Abbot Point Port Holdings controlled by him via shell companies in the British Virgin Islands and the Cayman Islands helped offload billions of dollars of Adani Group debt via related party transactions aimed at disguising the true extent of the Adani Group's losses from investors," the Congress leader added.

Mr. Ramesh claimed that two UAE-based shell companies controlled by him also lent $3.3 billion in opaque funds to the Carmichael project in Australia.

High Court disqualifies Arunachal BJP MLA

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The Itanagar Bench of the Gauhati High Court has declared the candidacy of an Arunachal Pradesh BJP MLA void. Dasanglu Pul, the widow of former Chief Minister Kalikho Pul, was elected from Hayuliang in 2019.

Hearing a petition filed by her 2019 election opponent, Lupalam Kri, the High Court observed that "the respondent/returned candidate had not presented her nomination paper in accordance with Section 33 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

Mr. Kri had claimed that Ms. Pul's candidacy was defective as she concealed the material fact (six properties of her late husband) in the affidavit filed by her. He challenged the election, claiming that the returning officer had improperly accepted Ms. Pul's candidature despite a complaint against her.

PM lauds 'shared history' of Saurashtra and Tamil Nadu

The Hindu Bureau
AHMEDABAD

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday lauded the "shared history of Saurashtra and Tamil Nadu", and said such centuries-old cultural links provide assurance that the country has the intrinsic power to innovate even in the most difficult circumstances.

Mr. Modi in his speech during the conclusion of the 'Saurashtra Tamil Sangamam' described the festival as the "confluence of nationalist fervour of Sardar Patel and [famed Tamil poet] Subramania Bharati".

The Gujarat government organised the 'Saurashtra Tamil Sangamam' during which thousands of people in the southern State, with roots in Saurashtra, visited the places of their ancestors by special trains organised by the Centre.

Centuries ago, many people had migrated to Tamil Nadu from the Saurashtra region. "The Saurashtra Tamil Sangamam allowed Saurashtrian Tamils to reconnect with their roots," Mr. Modi said.

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LIMITED
CIN– U40102RJ2000SGC016484 (A Govt. of Rajasthan Undertaking)
KALISINDH THERMAL POWER PROJECT, JHALAWAR (RAJASTHAN)
ONLINE TENDER NOTICE
E-tenders are invited for TN-537(RVU2324WLOB00175) Annual Rate Contract for empanelment of transportation agency(s)/ contractor(s) for transportation of pond/mound ash from ash pond/dyke of KaTPP to various locations of user agency & TN-32 (RVU2324WLOB00150) Construction of CC Road from Plant Main Gate to Ash Dyke at KaTPP. Tender details are available on websites **www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** (for e-tender), **www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rvunl** & **http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in**.
Raj.samwad/C/23/1322 RVUN/PR-3832 Chief Engineer (KaTPP)

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice
Tender No : SE/PHC/MPM/24 to 26/2023-24, **JJM Malappuram District** - Laying Distribution line, Construction of OHSRs, GLSRs, Pumping main, Road restoration works, Providing FHTCs and allied works to Pandikkad and Porur GPs - AMRUTH 2 Thirurangaid Municipality Laying Distribution lines, Pumping main,OHSR, providing FHTCs and allied works. **EMD :** Rs. 500000. **Tender fee :** Rs. 16540. **Last Date for submitting Tender :** 10-05-2023, 03:00 pm. **Phone :** 04832974871. Website : **www.kwa.kerala.gov.in www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**
Superintending Engineer
KWA-JB-GL-6-141-2023-24 PH Circle, Malappuram

KERALA SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PROJECT (KSWMP)
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
Project Director, Kerala Solid Waste Management Project (KSWMP) under LSGD, intends to invite Request for Proposal (RFP) for Hiring Consultants for **"Environmental and Social Impact Assessment of Regional Sanitary Landfills (SLFs) and Transfer Stations in Kerala".**
RFP document and details are available at **www.kswmp.org** and **https://etenders.kerala.gov.in.** Interested Consultants may submit their Proposals on or before 16:00 hours, on **16th May, 2023.** A pre-proposal conference will be held via online mode at 11:00 hrs. IST on 03rd May, 2023.
Project Director
Upper Ground Floor, Trans Towers, Vazhuthacaud, Thiruvananthapuram -695014, Kerala, India,
Tel: 0471-2333011,E-Mail:tenderkswmp@gmail.com,
Website: www.kswmp.org
RO/00980/D3/2023/I&PRD

कार्यालय अधिशाषी अभियन्ता सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग खण्ड, खेतड़ी
क्रमांक : 121 दिनांक : 19.04.2023
निविदा संशोधन सूचना संख्या 22 वर्ष 2022-23
इस कार्यालय के पत्रांक 6552-63 दिनांक 31.03.2023 द्वारा जारी निविदा सूचना संख्या 22 वर्ष 2022-23 आमंत्रित की गई थी, जिसकी निविदा जमा करवाने एवं निविदा को खोलने की तिथि 19.04.2023 थी। उक्त निविदा में निम्नानुसार संशोधन किया जाता हैं।

विवरण	पूर्व में प्रकाशित दिनांक एवं समय	संशोधित दिनांक एवं समय
निविदा जमा की तारीख	31.03.2023 प्रातः 10.00 बजे से 19.04.2023 को दोपहर 12.00 बजे तक	31.03.2023 प्रातः 10.00 बजे से 27.04.2023 को दोपहर 12.00 बजे तक
निविदा खोलने की तारीख	19.04.2023 सायं 05.00 बजे	27.04.2023 सायं 05.00 बजे

NIB Code : PWD2223A5063 UBN No. :
1. PWD2223WSOB20527, 2. PWD2223WSOB20528, 3. PWD2223WSOB20529
4. PWD2223WSOB20530, 5. PWD2223WSOB20531, 6. PWD2223WSOB20532
7. PWD2223WSOB20533, 8. PWD2223WSOB20534
निविदा की शेष शर्तें यथावत रहेगी।
अधिशाषी अभियन्ता
DIPR/C/5849/23 सा.नि.वि. खण्ड खेतड़ी

MISSING PERSON

Mr. George @ Shibu, Age 52 yrs, Vachakkal House, Choolezhath Road, Karuvelippady, Thoppumpady, Ernakulam was missing since 01.04.2023. In this regard, a case was registered in Thoppumpady Police Station as Crime No. 559/23 U/s 57 of KP Act and the case is under investigation. If any information about this person, please contact us on the numbers given below.
Assistant Commissioner of Police, Mattanchery - 9497990070
Inspector of Police, Thoppumpady PS - 9497947186
Sub Inspector of Police, Thoppumpady PS - 9497980423
Thoppumpady Police Station - 0484 2224033
IDENTIFICATION MARKS: Height 152 cm, 52 years age with medium complexion and fat body and plain bald. Blue check shirt and ash colour pants were weared at the time of missing from his residence.
RO/00932/F2/2023/I&PRD

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice
Tender No : Re12/23-24/SE/PHC/PKD, **JAL JEEVAN MISSION -** Design, Construction& Maintanance of 14 LL OHSR at Kavuluppara, 12LL OHSR at Palakuzhy, supplying, laying and maintenance of Clear Water Pumping Main and Clear Water Gravity Main , Supply & erection of Clear water pump sets, Supplying, laying and maintenance of distribution system along with Providing FHTCs (8712 Nos) in Kizhakkanchery, Vadakkanchery, and Kannambra pts including PWD & LSGD road restoration works. **EMD :** Rs. 500000, **Tender fee :** Rs. 16540, **Last Date for submitting Tender :** 10-05-2023 03:00:pm, **Phone :** 04912544927, **Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**
Superintending Engineer
KWA-JB-GL-6-132-2023-24 PH Circle, Palakkad

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग वृत अजमेर
क्रमांक : अधी. अभि./वृत/अजमेर/डी- दिनांक : 14.04.2023
प्रथम निविदा संशोधन सूचना
निविदा सूचना संख्या 17/2022-23
DIPR No. मूल निविदा DIPR/C/2023/5259 दिनांक : 06.04.2023
राजकीय हित में इस कार्यालय द्वारा जारी निविदा सूचना संख्या 17 वर्ष 2022-23 जरिये पत्र क्रमांक 5038 दिनांक 29.03.2023 में अपरिहार्य कारणों से निम्नानुसार आंशिक संशोधन किया जाता है।
NIB No.: PWD2223A5047, UBN No. 1. PWD2223WSOB20466, 2. PWD2223WSOB20467, 3. PWD2223WSOB20468, 4. PWD2223WSOB20469, 5. PWD2223WSOB20470, 6. PWD2223WSOB20471, 7. PWD2223WSOB20472

क्र. सं.	विवरण	निविदा के अनुसार पूर्व में निर्धारित तिथि	संशोधित तिथि
1	ऑनलाइन निविदा प्रपत्र डाउनलोड करने की तिथि	04.04.2023 से 17.04.2023 सायं 6.00 बजे तक	04.04.2023 से 01.05.2023 सायं 6.00 बजे तक
2	ऑनलाइन निविदा प्रपत्र अपलोड करने की तिथि	04.04.2023 से 17.04.2023 सायं 6.00 बजे तक	04.04.2023 से 01.05.2023 सायं 6.00 बजे तक
3	ऑनलाइन निविदा खोलने की तिथि	18.04.2023 को प्रातः 11.00 बजे से	03.05.2023 प्रातः 11.00 बजे से

निविदा के शेष नियम व शर्तें यथावत रहेंगी।
(अशोक कुमार तँवर)
अधीक्षण अभियन्ता
DIPR/C/5809/23 सा. नि. वि. वृत अजमेर

DELHI JAL BOARD, GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI
OFFICE OF THE Addl. Chief Engineer (C)-06 THROUGH EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (PR) SR-I
POCKET-D-7, ROHINI SECTOR-6, NEW DELHI-110085 Email:- eepsr11@gmail.com
आज़ादी का अमृत महोत्सव
Press Note NIT No. 01(2023-24)/EE(PR)SR-I, RE-INVITE

Item No.	Name of work	Amount put to tender in Rs.	E/Money (EMD) in Rs.	Tender Fee (Non-Refundable)	Date of release of tender/Tender ID	Last date/time of receipt of tender
1	"Crossing of Rohtak Road/NH-10 by 450 mm dia HDPE pipe sewer line through HDD method by Trenchless Technology opposite/near Metro pillar no. 496 and 548 for connecting Mundka Industrial Area to Mundka village in ac-08 Mundka Assembly Constituency Delhi."	94,26,676/-	1,88,534/-	Rs. 1500/-	Dated 25.04.2023 2023_DJB_240148_1	16.05.2023 upto 3:15 PM

Further all the details in this regard can be seen at **https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in**.
ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER) (Er. V.P. Sharma)
Advt. No. J.S.V. 16 (2023-24) EE (PR) SR-I

INBRIEF

Centre signs pact with Art of Living to fight drug abuse

The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment on Wednesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Art of Living, the NGO run by Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, as part of its *Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan* (NMBA) in a ceremony attended by the spiritual leader, and Social Justice Minister Virendra Kumar. The signing ceremony was held at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi, where newly appointed Social Justice Secretary Saurabh Garg was also present. Mr. Garg said that he was happy to see the idea of involving spiritual and faith-based organisations in the drug demand reduction campaign gathering steam with MoUs such as this one.

Cardiopulmonary failure behind cheetah death: official

The cheetah Uday that died on Sunday probably succumbed to heart failure and suggestions that it died of poisoning (from a snake bite) or bodily harm were unfounded, S.P. Yadav, who leads Project Cheetah and is a top official in the Environment Ministry's forestry division, told *The Hindu*. These findings are from the autopsy report, though a fuller analysis based on tissue samples were still awaited. "Autopsy reports also suggest that there were lesions on the lung and heart. It's possible that the animal died of overexertion [with the weak heart and strenuous exercise compounding it]," he said.

Remove misleading ads on Bournvita, says NCPCR

The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights has asked Mondelez International India to review and withdraw all "misleading" advertisements, packaging and labels on its product Bournvita. In a letter to the president of the firm, the NCPCR said it had received a complaint that Bournvita, which was promoted as a health powder or drink, contained a high percentage of sugar and contents or substances that may be harmful to children. It said the product fails to display mandatory disclosures in line with the guidelines and regulations of FSSAI and the Consumer Protection Act.

Union Cabinet gives nod for medical devices policy

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the National Medical Devices Policy, 2023, which is expected to facilitate an orderly growth of the medical device sector to meet the public health objectives of access, affordability, quality, and innovation. It will help the sector grow from the present $11 billion to $50 billion in the next five years, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya told the media after the Cabinet meeting. He said the Union government's vision was to accelerate the growth path with a patient-centric approach and to emerge as a global leader in manufacturing and innovation of medical devices by achieving a 10%-12% share in the expanding global market over the next 25 years.

Dhankhar, Shah praise Modi for 'apolitical' *Mann Ki Baat*

Vice-President terms the monthly radio broadcast a reflection of civilisational ethos, while Home Minister calls it a unique experiment that strengthened the foundation of India's democracy

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar and Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for steering clear of politics in his *Mann Ki Baat* speeches.

At the national conclave here ahead of the 100th episode of the monthly radio broadcast on April 30, the Vice-President praised the broadcast for being "completely apolitical", stating that it was a reflection of the country's civilisational ethos.

Mr. Dhankhar termed 2014, when a single-party majority government was formed at the Centre after a gap of 30 years, an epochal development which shaped the destiny of India, taking the country to a path of progress and unstoppable rise.

A culturally rich country had forgotten its own contributions and *Mann Ki Baat* was reviving that spirit, he said.

Home Minister Amit Shah with Anurag Singh Thakur and Ashwini Vaishnaw at 'Mann Ki Baat @100' in New Delhi. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Listing the Centre's achievements, he wondered why "some of our own people" would go abroad and make negative remarks on the country. "Why do they exhibit ostrich-kind of stance...why don't they see writing on the wall...," he said. Last month, the BJP had sought an apology from Congress leader Rahul Gandhi following his remarks in London on the "fall of democracy" in India.

Mr. Shah called the radio broadcast a "unique experiment" that strengthened the foundation of India's democracy.

'Great communicator'

"In all the *Mann Ki Baat* episodes, the Prime Minister's speeches were devoid of even the slightest political hue, an unprecedented initiative by any leader in the world," he said, while describing Mr. Modi as a great communicator.

At the valedictory session, Mr. Shah said through dialogue, the Prime Minister gave a platform for honouring the contributions made by common people.

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the change in political scene in 2014 brought about an alignment between the people and the government, in what had earlier been a space of friction.

Information & Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur said the programme played a key role in highlighting the achievements of common people.

Biggest example of transformation, says Aamir Khan

NEW DELHI

During a session at the conclave on 'Mann Ki Baat@100', Bollywood star Aamir Khan said the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's monthly address was the biggest example of transformational change and people's movement.

157 nursing colleges get approval

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved establishment of 157 new nursing colleges "in co-location with the existing medical colleges" established since 2014.

The step will add approximately 15,700 nursing graduates every year and is aimed at addressing the geographical and rural-urban imbalances in the healthcare sector.

Announcing the decision, Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Wednesday said the government planned to complete the project within the next two years and had laid out detailed timelines for every stage of planning and execution.

"The State government/Union Territories will intimate the Health Ministry on a regular basis, the physical progress of the works being done for the establishment of new nursing colleges under the scheme," he said.

A release issued by the government said it had increased the number of medical colleges and subsequently MBBS seats in past few years. "There is an increase of around 71% in medical colleges from 387 before 2014 to 660 as of now. Further, the number of MBBS seats have almost doubled and post-graduate seats have more than doubled since 2013-14," it noted. The Minister said the services of Indian nurses were considerably recognised in foreign countries. So it was important to bring Indian nursing education at par with the global standards.

Only half of PMJDY insurance claims settled in two years

No assurances

While the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana bank account holders are provided the facility of accident insurance cover, only 50% of the claims made in the past two years were settled

	FY 2021-22	FY 2022-23
No. of accident claims filed	341	306
Claims settled	182	147
Claims rejected	48	10
Status unknown	111	149

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

In the past two financial years, only 329 of the 647 claims filed for accident insurance cover provided to bank account holders under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) have been settled.

This information was revealed in a reply to an RTI (Right to Information) application filed by activist Chandra Shekhar Gaur. In August 2014, while launching the Jan Dhan Yojana that was hailed as an unprecedented step for financial inclusion, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had also announced accident cover for the account holders.

The accident insurance cover for death or permanent disability is extended to all the 48.65 crore account holders, more than 50% of them women. No premium is charged from account holders.

Under the PMJDY, a RuPay debit card is provided to account holders. The key condition to get the accident insurance is that the beneficiary must have performed at least one successful transaction (financial or non-financial) using the card in the 90 days prior to the date of the accident. This condition can make filing claims difficult.

In 2021-22, 341 claims were received, of which 182 were settled and 48 rejected. No details about the remaining 111 cases was provided by the Union Finance Ministry. The total claim amount paid for the period was ₹2.27 crore.

In 2022-23, 306 claims were received, of which 147 were settled and 10 rejected. Again no information was shared on the status of the remaining 149 claims. The total claim payout for the year was ₹1.88 crore.

Mr. Modi had first announced his government's intention to offer zero balance accounts to the "unbanked" in his first Independence Day address as Prime Minister in 2014 and he had formally launched the project on August 28 the same year.

Originally, an accident insurance cover of ₹1 lakh was offered and later, it was enhanced to ₹2 lakh for new accounts opened after August 28, 2018.

In the original scheme, the government had announced a life insurance cover of ₹30,000 to the account holders. But the government's reply to the RTI query says this had been discontinued since March 2020. As of March 2023, these 48.65 crore PMJDY bank accounts have a total deposit of ₹1,98,844.34 crore. But 4.03 crore of them hold zero balance.

360 Indians evacuated from Sudan reach New Delhi

Unexpected journey: Stranded Indians being evacuated in a C-130J aircraft by the IAF from Port Sudan to Jeddah. @IAF_MCC

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

India on Wednesday evening flew back the first group of citizens who were stranded in crisis-torn Sudan. The development that after several days of preparation that and was enabled with support from Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and other stakeholders. A civilian Saudia aircraft was used to fly the 360 Indians to Delhi from Jeddah, where they were earlier taken from Port Sudan. The evacuation is the beginning of a complex and risky process as hundreds of Indians are still stranded in Sudan as they are unable to get out as of now.

"India welcomes back its own. Operation Kaveri brings 360 Indian nationals to the homeland as first flight reaches New Delhi," said External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar.

This airlift is expected to be followed by similar flights if the 72-hour ceasefire can hold.

The fighting in Sudan broke out with such speed and ferocity that many Indians who had been living in the country for multiple generations did not have the time to collect their identity papers. As a result, Indian officials facilitating the evacuation from Port Sudan, had to process a significant number of special cases where people could not produce passports or OCI cards (proving that they are Overseas Citizens of India).

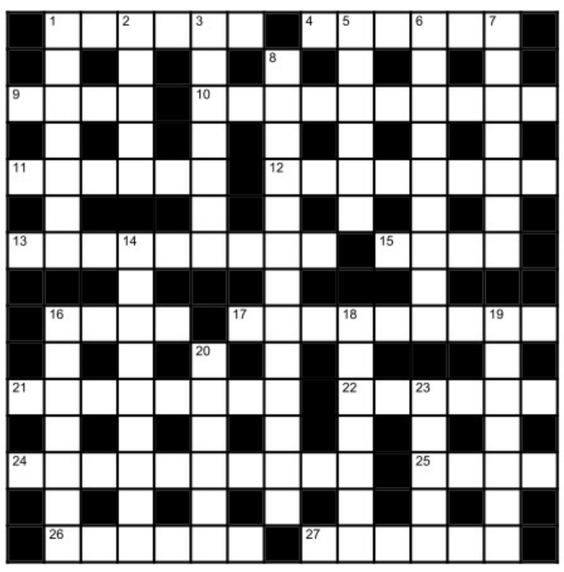
"The Sudanese capital is made of multiple cities that are connected through bridges. As soon as the fighting began, the bridges were sealed over by the Sudanese Armed Forces which stopped many expats from reaching homes or workstations to pick up their personal documents like passports," said an Indian businessman, who is among those who left his OCI card behind.

TH CROSSWORD + 13850

(set by Hypatia)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 On the radio, rock's louder (6)
4 Weaken self-control (6)
9 Secure rapidly (4)
10 Gut wrenching cries a vet expects initially (10)
11 Urge German to consume no alcoholic drink (6)
12 Accessory in Spooner's exposed palm (8)
13 Aggressively bargained for a coat (9)
15 Hint Hint (left hidden) (4)
16 Basically round or triangular Indian bread (4)
17 Substitutes relating to parcels lost (9)
21 Covers maiden taking rest behind a little screen (8)
22 Film about hot English bromance, essentially (6)
24 May had prepared ahead of school applicants (10)
25 Layers of hair essentially need strengthening at the roots (4)
26 Essentially, gimlet is an exotic drink (6)
27 Distributes paper hankies saving time (6)

Down

1 Support frames put up for dance (7)
2 Nasality distorted this language, say (5)
3 Pick up some bud e.g., remembrance rose (7)
5 15 exercises by one Dutch mathematician (6)
6 Like fable of horse, perhaps arrested by guards abruptly (9)
7 Engineer and doctor unite in train (7)
8 Yes, Tintin's got specialised training, perhaps (4,9)
14 Poses from high places when time's left (9)
16 Associate parliamentarian's rhetoric about pandemic (7)
18 Position traps on the sides for insects (7)
19 Detains guy mostly between breaks (7)
20 Tissue not dirty around edge (6)
23 Former leader regularly in tech group (5)

SUDOKU

	4			7	6	1		2
		7	2	1				
		2	5					
3	2					9		
9			6		2			5
		5					2	8
					7	3		
				8	1	6		
4		1	9	6			8	

No.SS5781 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

C	O	N	V	E	R	G	E	■	A	F	I	E	L	D
O	■	U	■	A	■	L	■	W	■	R	■	L	■	E
P	U	R	E	R	■	A	N	A	L	O	G	I	E	S
O	■	S	■	T	■	N	■	I	■	M	■	T	■	O
U	N	E	T	H	I	C	A	L	■	T	C	E	L	L
T	■	M	■	S	■	E	■	E	■	O	■	■	■	A
■	P	A	T	H	O	S	■	■	D	O	P	I	E	S	T
G	■	I	■	A	■	■	■	■	■	T	■	S	■	E
E	I	D	E	T	I	C	■	H	O	O	D	O	O	■
T	■	■	■	T	■	E	■	A	■	B	■	T	■	A
R	O	B	L	E	■	R	A	N	T	O	S	E	E	D
I	■	A	■	R	■	I	■	D	■	T	■	R	■	D
D	I	S	M	I	S	S	A	L	■	T	R	I	A	L
O	■	S	■	N	■	E	■	E	■	O	■	C	■	E
F	R	I	D	G	E	■	T	R	A	M	W	A	Y	S

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

5	2	3	4	6	7	8	9	1
8	4	7	2	9	1	3	5	6
6	1	9	8	3	5	7	2	4
7	6	5	3	1	4	2	8	9
2	3	4	6	8	9	5	1	7
9	8	1	7	5	2	4	6	3
3	7	6	9	2	8	1	4	5
4	5	8	1	7	6	9	3	2
1	9	2	5	4	3	6	7	8

FAITH

When Kailasa beckons

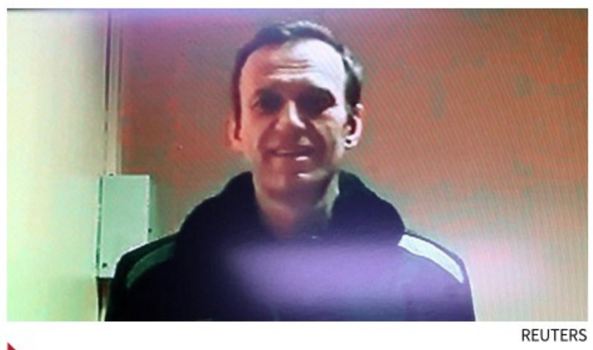
Adi Sankara, who propagated bhakti movement and showed us six types of prayers, lived only 32 years. Tamil saint Tirugnanasambandar lived half that many years; yet he is celebrated as first among equals: if you go to any Saivite temple, you will find him occupying prime position, followed by other saints such as Sundarar and Manickavasagar. In fact, Tirugnanasambandar is considered to be an avatar of Murugan, as per Arunagiri Nadhar, Vallalar and other savants, said P. Swaminathan in a discourse.

Siva temples resonate during his guru puja day. Born in Seergazhi as the son of Sivapadha Irudhayar, he attained moksha in Tirunaloorthirumanam, known as Achalpuram today. As a toddler he was blessed to have sucked gnana from Goddess Umayal, after which he started rendering poems. At three years of age, he received all graces and rendered Ammai, Appan, songs. The pasuram *Thodudaya Seliyan* sprang out of him spontaneously after the darshan of Siva and Umayal at Seergazhi temple. After God's grace, Sambandar embarked on yatras to spread Sanatana Dharma.

When he turned 16, his parents persuaded him to get married. As his wedding is conducted by Tiruneelakanda Nayanar, the groom's mind is in turmoil. As he circumabulated the agni with his bride, he beseeched Siva saying, "How will I serve you if trapped in family life? I only want to serve you forever." Understanding his turmoil, Siva asked him if he was ready to enter Kailasa, His abode, along with his family. Not only Sambandar's wife but both their parents and all the attendees sought Kailasa along with the newly-weds willingly.

MOSCOW

Russian opposition leader Navalny says he may face life sentence



REUTERS

Russian Opposition leader Alexei Navalny said on Wednesday that he was facing new extremism and terrorism charges that could land him in prison for life as authorities set the stage for a new trial. Mr. Navalny said that the extremism charges that he rejected as "absurd" could land him in prison for 30 years. AP

CAIRO

Sudanese crowd at borders to escape fighting amid shaky truce

REUTERS

Crowds of families have been growing at Sudan's border crossing with Egypt and at a main port, desperately trying to escape the country's violence and even waiting for days with little food or shelter, witnesses said on Wednesday. In Khartoum, the intensity of fighting eased on the second day of a three-day truce. AP

TEHRAN

Powerful Iranian cleric Ayatollah Abbas Ali killed in attack in a bank

AFP

A powerful Iranian cleric, a member of the Assembly of Experts that selects the Supreme Leader, has been killed in an armed attack, officials said on Wednesday. "Ayatollah Abbas Ali Soleimani was killed in an armed attack... the assailant was also arrested and is now being investigated," IRNA news agency reported. AFP

VATICAN CITY

Pope allows women to vote at upcoming bishops' meeting

AP

Pope Francis has decided to give women the right to vote at an upcoming meeting of bishops, a historic reform that reflects his hopes to give women greater decision-making responsibilities and laypeople more say in the life of the Catholic Church. Catholic women's groups immediately praised the move as historic. AP

'China pushes largest-ever expansion of nuclear arms'

Agence France-Presse
HONG KONG

China is pushing ahead with the largest-ever expansion of its nuclear arsenal, modernising the atomic deterrent with an eye on any future conflicts with the United States, experts say. The SIPRI think tank estimates that China has a stockpile of around 350 nuclear warheads – small fry when compared with the United States and Russia.

But it is growing fast, and could have 1,500 warheads by 2035, according to a Pentagon estimate published in November.

"China appears to no longer be satisfied with just a few hundred nuclear weapons to ensure its security," Matt Korda, of the Federation of American Scientists, told AFP.

Xi holds first call with Zelensky since Russia's invasion of Ukraine

With rational thinking and voices now on the rise, it is important to seize the opportunity and build up favourable conditions for the political settlement of the crisis, China's leader told Zelensky; readout has no reference to Russia

Ananth Krishnan

China's President Xi Jinping and Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky on Wednesday spoke for the first time since the Russian invasion of Ukraine, with the Chinese leader calling for "seizing the opportunity" for a political settlement.

Mr. Xi once again referred to the peace proposal put forward by China in February, on the one year-anniversary of the invasion. He also announced that China "will send the Special Representative of the Chinese Government on Eurasian Affairs to Ukraine and other countries to have in-depth communication with all parties on the political settlement of the Ukraine crisis."

Xi Jinping (right) told Volodymyr Zelensky that China will continue to facilitate talks for peace and efforts for early ceasefire. AFP

In Beijing's readout of Mr. Xi's remarks, there was no mention of Russia. Indeed, Beijing's proximity to Moscow – and recent declarations by both sides of relations being at "the best period in history" – has dampened any Western expectations of Beijing fulfilling a role as a credible mediator.

Chinese officials and experts have, however, talked up Beijing's ability to broker a political settlement, particularly in the wake of China's role in the landmark Saudi-Iran deal.

Political settlement

"With rational thinking and voices now on the rise, it is important to seize the opportunity and build up favourable conditions for the political settlement of the crisis," Mr. Xi told Mr. Zelensky, calling on "all parties...to seriously reflect on the Ukraine crisis and jointly explore ways to bring lasting peace and security to Europe through dialogue."

"China will continue to facilitate talks for peace and make its efforts for early ceasefire and restoration of peace," he said.

The Ukraine President, in a tweet, didn't mention Beijing's efforts at mediation, saying he "had a long and meaningful phone call with President Xi Jinping".

"I believe that this call, as well as the appointment of Ukraine's Ambassador to China, will give a powerful impetus to the development of our bilateral relations," he said.

Mr. Xi, in the call, referred to Beijing's position paper on the political settlement of the crisis. The paper reflected Beijing's dual-track approach of, on the one hand, saying it supported the "sovereignty" of all countries and on the other criticising the West and NATO while defending "legitimate" Russian security concerns.

Taliban kill Kabul suicide bombing mastermind: U.S.

Associated Press
WASHINGTON

A ground assault by the Taliban killed the Islamic State militant who spearheaded the August 2021 suicide bombing at the Kabul airport that left 13 U.S. troops and about 170 Afghans dead during the chaotic U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan, U.S. officials said.

Initially, neither the U.S. nor apparently the Taliban were aware that the mastermind was dead. He was killed during a series of battles early this month in southern Afghanistan between the Taliban and the Islamic State group's affiliate, according to several officials. But in the past few days, U.S. intelligence confirmed "with high confidence" that the Islamic State leader had been killed, an administration official said on Tuesday. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss intelligence matters.

Late on Tuesday night, Pentagon press secretary Brig. Gen. Patrick Ryder issued a statement confirming that the plotter had been killed by the Taliban. "The U.S. was not involved in this operation," Mr. Ryder said. Over the weekend, the U.S. military began to inform the parents of the 11 Marines, the sailor and the soldier who were killed in the blast at Abbey Gate, and they shared the information in a private group messaging chat. The father of one of the Marines said the death of his son's killer brings little comfort.

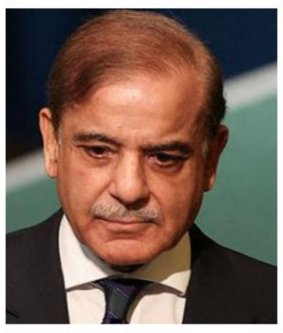
In crisis-hit Pakistan, Shehbaz Sharif govt. is taking on a divided judiciary

Mehmal Sarfraz
LASHORE

What started off as a political crisis between the ruling coalition and the opposition led by Imran Khan is turning out to be a constitutional crisis in Pakistan, with the government of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif seemed determined to curtail the powers of the Supreme Court Chief Justice even as cracks are widening in the judiciary.

For the past year, the South Asian country, reeling under mounting economic woes, has been on the brink with Mr. Khan, who was forced out of power by a vote of no-confidence in Parliament in April 2022, demanding early national elections. It escalated in January when Mr. Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) dissolved two provincial Assemblies - Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The PTI had counted on the dissolution leading to either elections in the two provinces or forcing the coalition government of Mr. Sharif to agree to early general elections across the country. But the Centre was not in a hurry.



Shehbaz Sharif

The matter reached the Supreme Court after the Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP), Umar Ata Bandial, took a *suo motu* notice over the delay in polls. After a lot of back and forth (a nine-member Bench, which initially took up the case was later reconstituted to a five-member Bench), a 3-2 split decision held that elections should be held within 90 days in both provinces.

Federal Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar told *The Hindu* that the Punjab polls decision was dismissed by 4-3 judges "after two judges recused from the nine-member Bench, but it is unfortunate that the Chief Justice made this case controversial". Mr. Tarar said the government believes things have not been dealt with in a proper manner. "The matter has actually been manipulated."

Cracks in the judiciary

After the 3-2 split decision, three judges of the original nine-member Bench (Justices Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Jamal Khan Mandokhail and Athar Minallah) made some scathing remarks.

In March, Justices Ali Shah and Mandokhail said they were in agreement with the decisions of Justice Yahya Afridi and Justice Athar Minallah when they questioned the intent of the *suo motu* and urged the constitution of a full Bench. In essence, the order said the Punjab elections' *suo motu* was dismissed 4-3. The detailed ruling added: "We find it essential to underline that in order to strengthen our institution and to ensure public trust and public confidence in our Court, it is high time that we revisit the power of 'one-man show' enjoyed by the office of the Chief Justice of Pakistan."

The controversy did not end there.

In a bid to curtail the *suo motu* powers of the Chief Justice, the National Assembly and the Senate passed the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Bill, 2023, last month, which became law last week. An eight-member Supreme Court Bench took up petitions challenging the Bill, which also deals with Bench formation, even before it became law.

"Parliament has introduced this law because there were voices within the Supreme Court as well the Bar bodies criticising the manner in which Benches are constituted in the SC. Unfortunately, the SC took up a petition challenging a law which had not yet come into effect. That is unprecedented," Law Minister Tarar told *The Hindu*.

According to lawyer Abdul Moiz Jaferii, the fact that the top court reacted by making an eight-member Bench and began to hear a challenge to a Bill even before it became law is an indication of "how far astray from the law we actually find ourselves... It's all to do with politics and power."

(Mehmal Sarfraz is a journalist based in Lahore)

U.S. to send nuclear submarines to S. Korea

Associated Press
WASHINGTON

Presidents Joe Biden and Yoon Suk Yeol on Wednesday will sign an agreement that includes plans to have U.S. nuclear-armed submarines dock in South Korea for the first time in more than 40 years, a conspicuous show of support to Seoul amid growing concern about nuclear threats by North Korea, according to senior Biden administration officials.

The planned dock visits are a key element of what's being dubbed the "Washington Declaration," aimed at deterring North Korea from carrying out an attack on its neighbour. It is being unveiled as Mr. Biden is hosting Mr. Yoon for a state visit during a moment of heightened anxiety for both leaders over an increased pace of ballistic missile tests by North Korea.

The three senior Biden administration officials said that Mr. Biden and Mr. Yoon aides have been working on details for months and agreed "occasional" and "very clear demonstrations of the strength" of U.S. extended deterrence capabilities needed to be an essential aspect of the agreement.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the Public that Original Allotment Letter dated 16.07.1981 vide No. 48/971/BSK-III/III/III/1981-82, in the name of **Sri.Gurusiddappa Kampli** in respect of Property No.971, Situated at **2nd Cross, 3rd Stage, 3rd Phase, 3rd Block, Banashankari, Bangalore** has been lost, All the persons are hereby informed not to deal or carry out any transaction with anyone on the basis of the said Documents. If anyone has already carried out or being carried out kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within **07 days** from this present.

Y. Sowmya Yadav, Advocate
Samvruddhi Legal, # 83, Ground Floor, 5th 'A' Cross, 21st Main, J.P. Nagar 2nd Phase, Bangalore-78. **M : 9916343921**

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that, our client, M/s. Country Condos Limited (formerly M/s. Country Club (Bangalore) Limited), having its registered office at #7-1-19/3 , 1st Floor, I.S.R. Complex, Kundanbagh, Begumpet Hyderabad 500016, is the absolute owner of all that piece and parcel of industrially converted land being a portion of Sy No.20/2, measuring 28 ½ guntas, situated at Giddenahalli Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru District (hereinafter referred to as the Schedule Property) having acquired the same under the Sale Deed dated 24.02.2007 (registered as Document No.ANK-1-31771/2006-07, stored in C.D.No.ANKD190, in the Office of the Sub-registrar, Anekal) ("Sale Deed") from its vendor Sri. M. Srinivas.

Our client further informs that the aforesaid original Sale Deed has been lost/ misplaced along with the bag during the transit from Jeevana Bheema Nagar to Sakra Hospital and accordingly our client has lodged a police complaint, with the Marathahalli, Police Station under Acknowledgement dated 13.04.2023, bearing reference No.27/2023, with the request to further investigate and to do the needful.

Any person/s finding the aforesaid original Sale Deed may please handover the same to the undersigned or if there are any claims based on the said Sale Deed write to the under signed within seven (7) days from the issuance of this public notice.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of industrially converted land being a portion of Sy No.20/2, measuring 28 ½ guntas, situated at Giddenahalli Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru District, and bounded as follows:-

On or towards the East By : Land in Sy.No.20/1 ;
On or towards the West By : Road;
On or towards the North By : Private Land;
On or towards the South By : Remaining portion of Sy.No.20/2.

Together with all easement rights, water courses and right of access, etc.

Harish Sathya
Sathya and Co.
Advocates and Legal Consultants
57, 1st Floor, 7th Cross,
Central Street, Kumara Park West,
Bangalore 560020. Ph: 080 41158500
E-mail: harish@sathyaandco.com

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, M. LAKSHMI PRIYADARSHINI D/o C. Mahendiran, W/o H.Karthik Babu, Residing at No.41, NGO Colony, 4th Street New Perungalathur Chennai-600063, Presently at 58, LIC Colony, Bhima Jothi Ngr, Basaveshwaranagar, Bangalore-560079 declare that my Correct name M.Lakshmi Priyadarshini as that in my Aadhar, Passport, PAN Card,Bank Records, other valid Documents,but in my Education Records my name is entered as M.Lakshmi Priyadharshini, instead of M.Lakshmi Priyadarshini and both names belongs to me only vide affidavit dated 25-04-2023 Sworn before the Notary Public Vanajakshi.R, Bangalore-03.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE HON'BLE PRINCIPAL CITY CIVIL JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH.84)
COM. O.S No.1508/2022
Between: The Jammu and Kashmir Bank Limited, a Banking Company Registered under the then Jammu and Kashmir Companies Act of 1977, (Samvat), Branch Office at First Floor, 8th Edifice CMH Road, Indiranagar, Bangalore-32 Represented by its Manager, and GPA Holder **Mr. Sanjeev Kumar S/o Shri.Roshan Lal,** Employee Code 4109, Aged about 55 years, Telephone No.08025585740 Mobile No. 9972201709 E-mail ID: sanjeev.aggarwal@jkbmail.com inbang@jkbmail.com **Plaintiff**
AND
1. Translab innovations pvt. Ltd a private limited company having its registered office at No.165/2 13th Cross, Kuvempu Road, Vignan nagar, Bangalore 560075. **Also at:** No.309, Bluemoon Prime 2nd Floor 9th Main Sector-7, HSR Layout Bangalore
2. Angad Bir Singh Mehta aged about 37 years **S/o Baljit Singh Mehta** No.A-004, Golden Palm Apartments, N R Layout, Kaggadaspura, Near Bus Stop, C V Raman Nagar, Bangalore-560093, Mobile No.884010066 E-mail angad@translabinovations.com
3. Mrs. Manpreet Kour Rai aged about 45 years **D/o Mr. Hertej Bahadur Rai** No.A-004, Golden Palm Apartments, N R Layout, Kaggadaspura, Near Bus Stop C V Raman Nagar, Bangalore-560093.
4. Mr. Harbinder Singh aged about 48 years, **S/o Inderjit singh,** Resident of Kanli Bagh Baramulla, Kashmir. Mobile No.9886016455 E-mail: harbinder@translabinovations.com **Defendant**
Summon/Notice to the defendant No.1 to 4
Whereas the plaintiff above named have preferred a suit for recovery against the defendant **Rs.1,93,90,215/- (Rupees One Crore Ninety Three Lacs Ninety Thousand Two Hundred Fifteen Only)** and for other relief/s and you are hereby summoned to appear before this Hon'ble court either in hereby person or through the pleader on the **30-05-2023 at 11 'O' Clock** to answer the same, failing which the said suit will be disposed off ex-parte given under my hand and seal of the court this **21-04-2023**
By order of the court
Asst. Registrar
City Civil Judge at Bengaluru
Sri. S. B. Abdur Rahman, Advocate, Office at No.60, 1st floor, M.M. Complex-I, Opp. Modi Masjid, Chick Bazaar Road, Tasker Town, Bangalore-560051.

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Shailendra Nagarajan R/o. 536 B, Amarjyothi Apt, Bang – 82 have changed my name from Shailendra Rao N to Shailendra Nagarajan for all future purposes Vide affidavit dated 25-04-2023 sworn before the Notary Public Mr.Seshagiri. B

I, SMITA Jaiswal D/O Shambhu Dayal Malviya R/O M202 Purva Fairmont, Banglore, have changed my name to Smita Malviya for all purposes.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our Client intends to purchase the Schedule Property from its Owner **Smt. MADHURI GANDAMANENI,** daughter of late A. Srinivasaiah and wife of Mr. Hari Krishna Gandamaneni, aged about 49 years residing 19 N Spinning Wheel Cir, Spring, TX 77382, USA, duly represented by her registered General Power of Attorney holder Smt. K. Chittemma wife of late A. Srinivasaiah, aged about 84 years, residing at No.1945, 23rd Cross, 19th Main Road, 2nd Sector, HSR Layout, 2nd Stage, Bangalore – 560 102, having acquired the same under a Gift Deed dated October 22, 2018 from elder sister Smt. Mayura, daughter of late A. Srinivasaiah aged about 51 years, residing at No.1945, 23rd Cross, 19th Main Road, 2nd Sector, HSR Layout, 2nd Stage, Bangalore – 560 102 and registered as **Document No. 2199 of 2018-19** in Book-I, CD No.MLSD146, dated October 22, 2028, in the office of the Senior Sub-Registrar, Gandhinagar (Malleswaram) Bangalore. Any person having any claim or charge over the Schedule Property shall lodge their claim or objections, if any, together with documentary proof to the undersigned within 7 days from the date of this notice failing which it would be deemed that there is no claim, charge or encumbrance whatsoever on the Schedule Property and further our Client can proceed to purchase the above Schedule Property and any subsequent claim or objections in this regard shall be deemed to have been waived.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Shop/Office No. 101, on the First Floor, after bifurcation now assigned as New Municipal No.8/14, PID No.77-100-8/14, (then PID No.77-100-8/14-n New PID No.77-100-8/14), situated at South End Street, K.P. (East) , Ward No.77, Sampangiramanagar, Bangalore, in the commercial building known as "Batavia Chambers" with super built up area of 1,230 sq ft, alongwith 1230/36000 equivalent to 307.49 sq ft or 28.57 sq mtrs of undivided share of land in immovable property bearing No.8, situated at South End Street, Kumara Park East, Bangalore – 560 001.

LEX ASTRA **RAMESH .T PARTNER, LEX ASTRA PARTNERS & ASSOCIATES**
Office at High Point 3, Flat 3111, 11th Floor, 45, Palace Road, Bangalore – 560001.
Mobile : 98453 29685

ASTROLOGY

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LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE HON'BLE PRINCIPAL CITY CIVIL JUDGE AT BANGALORE (CCH.89)
COM. O.S No. 1507/2022
Between: The Jammu and Kashmir Bank Limited, a Banking Company Registered under the then Jammu and Kashmir Companies Act of 1977, (Samvat), Branch Office at First Floor, 8th Edifice CMH Road, Indiranagar, Bangalore-32 Represented by its Manager, and GPA Holder **Mr. Sanjeev Kumar S/o Shri.Roshan Lal,** Employee Code 4109, Aged about 55 years, Telephone No.08025585740 Mobile No. 9972201709 E-mail ID: sanjeev.aggarwal@jkbmail.com inbang@jkbmail.com **Plaintiff**
AND
1. M/S Brilliance Art Gallery A Partnership concern Unit address: No.2-226-115, MS Ramaiah Road, Movenpic Hotel and S P A Gokula, Bangalore-560054.
2. Mr. Adil Ahmad Jan aged about 38 years **S/o Bashir Ahmad Jan,** No.8/1, 1st Floor, 3rd Cross, Marappa Garden, Benson Town Bangalore-560046
3. Mr. Sameer Ahmad Jan Aged about 42 years **S/o Bashir Ahmad Jan,** No.8/1, 1st Floor, 3rd Cross, Marappa Garden, Benson Town Bangalore-560046
4. Mr. Shafat Ahmad Naqash Aged about 58 years **S/o. Mr.Ghulam Mohammed Naqash,** No.333, 1st Floor, 8th Main, 5th Cross, HAL 3rd Stage, Bangalore-560075.
5. Mr. Mukhtar Ahmed Jhan Aged about 64 years **S/o Ali Moahmmed Jhan** Apartment No.B301, 2nd Floor Rosary Apartment, No.97, St.Jhones Church Road, Bangalore-560005
6. Mr. Aijaz Ahmed Makhdoomi Aged about 58 years, **S/o Assadullah Makhdoomi** No.8, 3rd Min, Vasanthanagar, Bangalore-560052 **Defendants**
Summon/Notice to the defendant No.1 to 6
Whereas the plaintiff above named have preferred a suit for recovery against the defendant **Rs.4,96,180/- (Rupees Four Lakhs Ninety Six Thousand One Hundred Eighty Only)** and for other relief/s and you are hereby summoned to appear before this Hon'ble court either in hereby person or through the pleader on the **29-05-2023 at 11'O' Clock** to answer the same, failing which the said suit will be disposed off ex-parte given under my hand and seal of the court this **12-04-2023**
By order of the court
Sheristadar
City Civil Court at Bengaluru
Sri. S. B. Abdur Rahman, Advocate, Office at No.60, 1st floor, M.M. Complex-I, Opp. Modi Masjid, Chick Bazaar Road, Tasker Town, Bangalore-560051.

INBRIEF

U.K. halts Microsoft's $69-bn Activision deal citing antitrust

Britain will block Microsoft's $69-billion acquisition of 'Call of Duty' maker Activision Blizzard over its concerns it would hinder competition in cloud gaming, dealing an unexpected blow to the biggest-ever deal in gaming. The country's antitrust regulator said on Wednesday that Microsoft's commitment to offer access to Activision's 'Call of Duty' franchise to leading cloud gaming platforms would not effectively remedy its concerns. REUTERS

Avaada Group raises $1.07 bn to fund green ventures

Avaada Group said it had raised $1.07 billion to fund its green hydrogen and green ammonia ventures in India as a part of its ongoing $1.3 billion fund raising plan. Brookfield Renewable, through its Brookfield Global Transition Fund, will be investing up to $1 billion in Avaada Ventures Pvt. Ltd., Avaada Group said. Global Power Synergy Public Company Ltd. will invest $68 million in Avaada Energy for releasing debt obligations and supporting growth.

ITI commissions 1 megawatt solar unit at Palakkad plant

ITI Ltd. said it had commissioned a 1 MW solar plant that could generate 12.5 lakh units of energy per year, at its Palakkad plant. With the commissioning of the system, the central PSU would not only be able to save substantially on electricity charges, but would also be able to bank and sell surplus energy to the energy grid of Kerala State Electricity Board Limited (KSEBL) as bidirectional ABT meters had been commissioned at the unit, ITI said in a regulatory filing on Wednesday.

Centre tells States to scrap levies on power generation

Power Ministry in a communique warns States to rescind any 'unconstitutional' imposts, including water cess, that they may have levied on power generating units; says such levies tax non-residents

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Centre on Wednesday issued a terse warning to States against resorting to tax levies on electricity generation, including through imposition of a water cess, noting that there were no provisions in the Constitution that enabled States to do so.

In a communique to States' chief secretaries, approved by Union Minister for Power and New and Renewable Energy R. K. Singh, the government said some States had imposed taxes or duties on generation of electricity and underlined that this was 'illegal as well as unconstitutional'.

"Any tax/duty on generation of electricity, which encompasses all types of generation... is illegal and unconstitutional," the Power Ministry said.

"Some States have imposed taxes/duties... under the guise of levying a cess on the use of water for generating electricity. However, though the State may call it a water cess, it is actually a tax on the generation of electricity - the tax is to be collected from the consumers of electricity who may happen to be residents in other States," the Ministry pointed out.

Terse missive

Centre has written to chief secretaries warning against imposing levies on generation of power

- Stresses there are no provisions in Constitution enabling States to impose any tax on power generation
- Flags fact that some States have imposed taxes in the guise of levying a cess on use of water for generating electricity
- Terms it 'illegal', 'unconstitutional' as levy has to be collected from consumers who may be residents in other States

Brakes India targets new lubricant at cars, CVs

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Leading automotive braking systems manufacturer Brakes India Ltd., has diversified into the lubricants space with the introduction of new brand Revia for passenger cars and commercial vehicles.

"Brakes India's aftermarket division has three functions – friction and non-friction brakes and fluids and coolants. We want to expand the fluid range and be a full-fledged player," VP and Head, Aftermarket business, S. Sujit Nayak said at the launch.

Maruti Q4 net surges 42% on higher sales

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Maruti Suzuki India reported a 42% rise in consolidated net profit to ₹2,671 crore for the fourth quarter ended March, driven by higher sales, improved realisation and favourable forex movement.

Net sales rose to ₹32,060 crore compared with ₹26,749 crore in the year-earlier period, Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) said.

For 2022-23, MSI posted a consolidated net profit of ₹8,211 crore against ₹3,879 crore in 2021-22.

Net sales last fiscal stood at ₹1,17,571 crore against ₹88,330 crore in 2021-22.

The company said its board had approved the creation of an additional capacity of up to 10 lakh cars per year to cater to the estimated market demand, including exports.

The board recommended the highest-ever dividend of ₹90 per share compared with ₹60 in 2021-22.

'Sugar output to drop on lower cane yield, rainfall'

The Hindu Bureau
COIMBATORE

Sugar production this season, ending in September, is likely to be 32.8 million tonnes (after diversion for ethanol) as against the earlier estimate of 34 million tonnes (mt), the Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA) said on Wednesday.

"Crushing season in Maharashtra has ended at around 105 lakh tonnes, lower than our earlier estimate, due to unexpectedly lower cane yields owing to higher ratoon crop share and uneven distribution of rainfall," ISMA said.

Patent filings in India rose by 13.6% in FY22, led by tech: Nasscom

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Patent filings in India surged by 13.6% year-over-year in fiscal 2022, marking the highest annual increase in the last decade, technology industry body Nasscom said in a report.

FY22 also witnessed a rise in the share of domestic filings to 44.4% of total patents filed, compared with 41.6% in the previous year.

Analysing the patents filed between FY2010 and FY2022, out of the 5,84,000 patents filed in India some 2,66,000 were from the technology domain, and 1,60,000 of these technology patents were from emerging technologies such as AI, IoT, Big Data, cybersecurity, and blockchain, Nasscom observed.

Of the total patents filed in the telecommunications sector, about 2.4% were related to emerging areas such as 5G and 6G.

Debjani Ghosh, President - Nasscom said: "India's adoption of emerging technologies has led to a surge in innovation, as evidenced by the increasing number of patent filings.

"This trend highlights India's position on the global innovation map and its leadership in emerging technologies such as AI."

To further boost domestic patent filings, partnerships among various stakeholders would be crucial in creating and raising awareness about intellectual property, she added.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	WEDNESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	60,301	0.28
US Dollar	81.74	0.25
Gold	61,040	0.76
Brent oil	80.53	-0.67

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	1847.90	3.30
Adani Ports	664.70	-6.75
Apollo Hosp	4410.40	-6.10
Asian Paints	2910.00	12.00
Axis Bank	887.65	9.30
Bajaj Auto	4299.00	-43.55
Bajaj Finserv	1334.70	-11.10
Bajaj Finance	6055.95	-19.30
Bharti Airtel	773.45	0.85
BPCL	349.00	1.50
Britannia Ind	4405.00	2.45
Cipla	911.10	1.45
Coal India	229.75	-0.50
Divis Lab	3220.00	-6.45
Dr Reddys Lab	4845.10	11.80
Eicher Motors	3248.35	30.40
Grasim Ind	1699.15	12.30
HCL Tech	1065.55	12.10
HDFC	2761.45	4.45
HDFC Bank	1671.80	7.65
HDFC Life	531.60	1.85
Hero MotoCorp	2505.15	7.40
Hindalco	424.80	-5.00
Hind Unilever	2510.80	20.35
ICICI Bank	914.95	1.50
IndusInd Bank	1137.80	16.05
Infosys	1227.55	2.65
ITC	412.25	0.70
JSW Steel	723.45	-1.55
Kotak Bank	1878.60	-10.70
L&T	2276.15	28.20
M&M	1213.55	3.70
Maruti Suzuki	8506.90	38.00
NestleIndia	21026.25	361.05
NTPC	169.85	-1.25
ONGC	161.15	0.50
PowerGrid Corp	238.30	5.40
Reliance Ind	2362.10	-13.95
SBI Life	1118.30	12.45
State Bank	566.35	4.55
Sun Pharma	971.25	-1.25
TataConsumerProduct	746.70	12.25
Tata Motors	478.20	4.65
Tata Steel	106.85	-0.20
TCS	3198.15	22.15
Tech Mahindra	996.30	-0.70
Titan	2641.00	7.80
UltraTech Cement	7456.90	17.70
UPL	715.35	0.70
Wipro	374.55	-1.10

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on April 26

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	81.57	81.89
Euro	90.14	90.49
British Pound	101.76	102.17
Japanese Yen (100)	61.16	61.40
Chinese Yuan	11.78	11.83
Swiss Franc	91.79	92.17
Singapore Dollar	61.12	61.36
Canadian Dollar	59.88	60.14
Malaysian Ringitt	18.30	18.38
Australian Dollar	53.92	54.14

Source:Indian Bank

Sport

Castellanos hits four in Girona's humbling of Real Madrid

EURO LEAGUES

Agence France-Presse
BARCELONA

Girona striker Taty Castellanos hit an incredible four goals as his side thrashed champion Real Madrid 4-2 in LaLiga on Tuesday, helping leader Barcelona edge closer to the trophy.

Carlo Ancelotti's Madrid is 11 points behind Barcelona having played one extra match, with this defeat virtually killing any hope it had remaining of defending the title.

Girona's Castellanos was left in tears after missing a big chance against Barcelona earlier in April in a goalless draw, but made amends in spectacular fashion at Montilivi against Madrid.

And the floodgates open: Castellanos, left, heads in Girona's opener against Madrid. AFP

The Argentine striker, on loan at Girona from New York City FC – owned by the City group – exposed gaps in Madrid's defence ahead of its Champions League semifinal tie against Manchester City in May.

Aston Villa moved up to fifth in the Premier League with a 1-0 win over Fulham on Tuesday, as Leeds and Leicester played out a 1-1 draw in the battle to beat the drop.

Wolves moved to the brink of survival by pulling nine points clear of the relegation zone after inflicting Roy Hodgson's first defeat since returning as Crystal Palace manager with a 2-0 win at Molineux.

The results: LaLiga: Girona 4 (Castellanos 12, 24, 46, 62) bt Real Madrid 2 (Vinicius 34, Vazquez 85); Cadiz 0 lost to Osasuna 1 (Ruben Garcia 62); Real Betis 0 drew with Real Sociedad 0.

Premier League: Wolves 2 (Andersen 3-og, Neves 90+4-pen) bt Crystal Palace 0; Aston Villa 1 (Mings 21) bt Fulham 0; Leeds 1 (Sinisterra 20) drew with Leicester 1 (Vardy 80).

Wrestlers up the ante, seek Prime Minister's intervention citing threats and intimidation

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI

The protesting wrestlers upped the ante on Wednesday, accusing Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh of intimidating them at the venue itself and imploring Prime Minister Narendra Modi to take note of their complaints and provide a hearing.

The former president of the Wrestling Federation of India has been accused of sexual harassment. The Delhi police on Wednesday told the Supreme Court it needed to do "preliminary enquiry" before registering an FIR, but also agreed to file one immediately if the court ordered.

Reaching out to the PM, Sakshi Malik questioned his silence and that of Union Minister for Women and Child Welfare Smriti Irani in the matter. "Modi ji talks *Beti Bachao*, calls us home when we win medals, talks about *Mann ki Baat*. This time we want him to listen to our *Mann ki Baat*, maybe he isn't aware of our complaints so far. Why is Smriti Irani ji silent till now," she questioned.

"Brij Bhushan says he is innocent, but his men are trying to pressurise the minor and her family. Even some of us here do not know her identity, how did he know? Some people even came here today morning and told me, 'he got his rival murdered on the day of voting when he was denied a ticket, why are you fighting him'. If this is not a threat, then what is," Bajrang Punia alleged.

Not allowed to train

The wrestlers claimed they were not allowed to train and prevented from accessing proper food. "We got mats here to train this morning but the police didn't allow. When we started training on the road, they said we don't have permission. We are not even allowed to bring in proper food. And when we don't win medals, officials claim we are finished. Do we also need their permission to breathe now?" Bajrang asked.

While the IOA Executive Committee is expected to meet on Thursday to decide on forming an ad-hoc committee for WFI, the wrestlers have decided to hold a candlelight vigil in the night "to try and show light to those who are perhaps still in the dark," Vinesh Phogat said, adding that they did not trust anyone or anything done by the Sports Ministry now, reiterating faith only in the judiciary.

"They made committees earlier also, what happened? We don't trust anything that MYAS does. Singh has taken over the WFI, all key posts are being held by his cronies. We are not here to fight elections, we only want our girls to be safe."

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Young Muslims wins big against Bharath Matha

Young Muslims whipped Bharath Matha FC 14-0 in the BDFA 'C' division football league here on Wednesday.

In another match, Navarathna FC was held to a two-all draw by Bangalore Phantom.

The results:

Navarathna FC drew with Bangalore Phantom FC 2-2.

Young Muslims FC bt Bharath Matha FC 14-0.

Deeksha's century guides Maverick Master CA to victory

S. Deeksha (111) helped Maverick Master CA defeat Raghu CA in the Tiger Cup under-12 cricket tournament here.

The scores:

Maverick Master CA 233/2 in 30 overs (S. Deeksha 111, Pranith Gowda 26) bt Raghu CA 151/5 in 30 overs (Surya 50, Suraj Sudhakar 37).

South Cricketers 142/9 in 30 overs (Akhilesh Pradhan 56, Sai Kulkarni 27) lost to Union Gymkhana 143/5 in 24.3 overs (Reyes Raj 51, Vivaan Bhusad 25).

Bellary takes out East India HC

Bellary HC took out East India HC 6-3 in the 92nd Travancore Cup hockey tournament here.

The results:

Bellary HC 6 (Akhil 8, 37, Bharath Kumar 16, 19, Yokesh 39, Jeshwanth 48) bt East India HC 3 (Yala 10, Ajeesh 41, Appachu 49).

Sen ousted; Treesa-Gayatri advance

Press Trust of India
DUBAI

On a day Lakshya Sen made a first-round exit, Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopi Chand advanced into the pre-quarterfinals of the Asia Badminton Championship here on Wednesday.

The women's doubles pair roared back from behind to defeat Indonesia's Lanny Tria Mayasari and Ribka Sugiarto 17-21, 21-17, 21-18.

Commonwealth Games gold medallist Sen, who took a short break to focus on his mental and physical health, was eliminated by Loh Kean Yew in a 21-7, 23-21 loss.

The results (Indians only):
Men: Loh Kean Yew (Sin) bt Lakshya Sen 21-7, 23-21.
Doubles: Takuro Hoki / Yog Kobayashi (Jpn) bt Krishna Prasad Garaga / Vishnuvardhan Goud Panjala 21-15, 21-17; Man Wei Chong / Kai Wun Tee (Mas) bt P.S. Ravikrishna / Sankar Prasad Udayakumar 21-12, 21-17.
Women: Akane Yamaguchi (Jpn) bt Malvika Bansod 25-23, 21-19; Komang Ayu Cahya Dewi (Ina) bt Akarshi Kashyap 21-6, 21-12.
Doubles: Meilysa Trias Puspitasari / Rachel Allessya Rose (Ina) bt Ashwini Bhat / Shikha Gautam 22-20, 21-12, 21-18; Jongkolphan Kititharakul / Rawinda Prajongjai (Tha) bt Haritha Manazhiyil / Ashna Roy 21-11, 21-21.
Mixed doubles: Rohan Kapoor / Sikki Reddy bt Chan Peng Soon / Cheah Yee See (Mas) 21-12, 21-16.

LIVE TELECAST

NBA: MTV, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 5 a.m.
Sri Lanka vs Ireland: 2nd Test, day 4, Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 9.45 a.m.
World Chess championship: FIDE & *Chess.com YouTube* channels, 2.30 p.m. onwards
Pakistan vs NZ: 1st ODI, Sony Sports Ten 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 4 p.m.
IPL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 7.30 p.m.
LaLiga: Sports 18-1 & Jio Cinema App, 11 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Friday)
Premier League: SS Select 1, 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 12.30 a.m. (Friday)

SNAPSHOTS

Liren cashes in on Nepomniachtchi's blunder

ASTANA: Ding Liren defeated Ian Nepomniachtchi in the 12th game to make the scores level in the World chess championship on Wednesday. It was a blunder by Nepomniachtchi that allowed Ding to come back into the match.

With just two games of classical chess remaining, the score is 6-6. A player needs to score 7.5 points to become the World champion.

If it is 7-7, tie-breakers of games with shorter durations will be played.

Railways women emerge victorious

KARAIKAL: Rajasthan and Railways bagged the men's and women's titles in the 36th Federation Cup volleyball championships on Wednesday.

While Rajasthan got the better of Haryana in the men's final while Railways defeated Kerala in the women's title clash.

The results: Men: Final: Rajasthan bt Haryana 19-25, 25-22, 25-22, 25-23.
Semifinal: Haryana bt TN 31-29, 25-21, 23-25, 22-25, 15-9.
Third place: Railways bt TN 25-22, 26-28, 25-15, 25-21.
Women: Final: Railways bt Kerala 25-14, 25-23, 25-16.

Raducanu pulls out of Madrid Open

MADRID: Emma Raducanu is set to drop out of the top-100 less than two years since her shock victory in the US Open after pulling out of the Madrid Open on Wednesday with a hand injury hours before her first match.

The 20-year-old Briton, currently world No. 85, was poised to face Bulgaria's Viktoriya Tomova.

The Briton was replaced by Austrian lucky loser Julia Grabher.

PROUD MOMENT

I dedicate the PoM award to my new-born son and my wife: Varun

Kolkata Knight Riders spinner Varun Chakravarthy dedicated his Player-of-the-Match performance to his new-born son whom he is yet to see. "Last match I went for 49 and this match I did well. That's how crazy life is. I would like to dedicate it (the award) to my new-born son and my wife," said Varun.

IN SEARCH OF SPEED

We will work on increasing Tendulkar's pace, says Bond

MI bowling coach Shane Bond said he will focus on boosting Arjun Tendulkar's bowling speeds after the left-arm medium-pacer registered figures of one for nine in two overs against Gujarat Titans on Tuesday. "He (Arjun) did well after what happened (31-run over) in the last game. We will work on increasing his pace," said Bond.

RECHARGE

'Rohit should take a little break from IPL to be fresh for WTC final'

Sunil Gavaskar feels Rohit Sharma should take "a little bit of a break" from the IPL so that he can keep himself fresh for the WTC final in June. "Rohit should take a break for the time being, and keep himself fit for the WTC final. He can come back for the last few matches," Gavaskar told *Star Sports*.

BIG BOOST

Batting a lot in the nets has helped me in the middle, says Abhinav

Extensive training sessions, comprising plenty of batting at the nets and taking countless throwdowns, have led to improving Gujarat Titans batter Abhinav Manohar's ability to strike the ball. "I think our team trains the most, it has the longest practice hours so we get to bat a lot. That really helps us out in the middle," said Abhinav.

Knight Riders snap losing streak, reignite campaign

Roy sets the tone with an aggressive knock before Venkatesh and Rana add 80 for the third wicket; Royal Challengers batters, except for Kohli, fail to fire as Varun, Russell and Suyash share the spoils

IPL-16

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

Royal Challengers Bangalore's lack of batting depth stood exposed yet again as it succumbed to a 21-run loss against Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium on Wednesday. For KKR, it was a much-needed win that broke a sequence of four successive defeats.

Chasing 201, Virat Kohli played a lone hand, slashing and pulling his way to his fifth half-century of the season (54, 37b, 6x4). Faf du Plessis and Glenn Maxwell were out cheaply and the likes of Mahipal Lomror, Shahbaz Ahmed and Suyash Prabhudessai, on whom the think-tank had placed much faith, failed to come good.

Showing spark

Lomror did show some spark (34, 18b, 1x4, 3x6), even hitting Sunil Narine and Varun Chakravarthy for a combined three sixes. The 55-run partnership for the fourth wicket with Kohli did raise the hopes of the home faithful.

But their dismissals in a span of four balls proved it was another false dawn.

Three to tango: After Roy plundered runs at the top of the order for Knight Riders, Varun and Russell put the skids on the Royal Challengers batters. K. MURALI KUMAR

Lomror was caught at deep mid-wicket off Varun (4-0-27-3) while Kohli holed out in the same area, with Venkatesh Iyer completing a fine low catch off Andre Russell.

Earlier, asked to bat first, KKR managed 66 runs in the PowerPlay, largely due to two big overs. David Willey went for 17 in the fourth before Jason Roy (56, 29b, 4x4, 5x6) hammered left-arm spinner Shahbaz for four sixes in the sixth, all in the arc between long-on and square leg. The Englishman would complete his half-century from just 22 balls.

But from a healthy position, KKR struggled, scoring a solitary boundary in the next five overs and losing both its openers to V. Vyshak. Jagadeesan holed out at deep mid-wicket while Roy was bowled around his legs.

However, in Venkatesh (31, 26b, 3x4) and skipper Nitish Rana (48, 21b, 3x4, 4x6), KKR found the men for the rebuild, with the duo combining for 80 runs (44b).

RCB didn't help itself by dropping Rana twice – on five by Siraj at long-off and on 19 by Harshal Patel at fine-leg – and the southpaw made the host pay.

Big hits

The 29-year-old clubbed Harshal for back-to-back sixes behind square on the leg-side to bring up KKR's 150 and then smashed Vyshak for two fours and a six.

Wanindu Hasaranga (4-0-24-2) stopped the bleeding temporarily, sending back both Rana and Venkatesh in the 18th over.

But Rinku Singh and David Wiese helped KKR to 200, with 50 runs being scored from overs 17 to 20, a cushion that eventually proved more than adequate.

SCOREBOARD

KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS
Jason Roy b Vyshak 56 *(29b, 4x4, 5x6)*, N. Jagadeesan c Willey b Vyshak 27 *(29b, 4x4)*, Venkatesh Iyer c Maxwell b Hasaranga 31 *(26b, 3x4)*, Nitish Rana c Vyshak b Hasaranga 48 *(21b, 3x4, 4x6)*, Andre Russell b Siraj 1 *(2b)*, Rinku Singh (not out) 18 *(10b, 2x4, 1x6)*, David Wiese (not out) 12 *(3b, 2x6)*; Extras (lb-2, w-5): 7; Total (for five wkts. in 20 overs): 200.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-83 (Jagadeesan, 9.2 overs), 2-88 (Roy, 9.6), 3-168 (Nitish, 17.2), 4-169 (Venkatesh, 17.4), 5-185 (Russell, 18.6).

RCB BOWLING
Siraj 4-0-33-1, Willey 3-0-31-0, Hasaranga 4-0-24-2, Shahbaz 1-0-25-0, Vyshak 4-0-41-2, Harshal 4-0-44-0.

ROYAL CHALLENGERS
Virat Kohli c Venkatesh b Russell 54 *(37b, 6x4)*, Faf du Plessis **(Impact Player in place of Harshal)** c Rinku b Suyash 17 *(7b, 1x4, 2x6)*, Shahbaz Ahmed lbw b Suyash 2 *(5b)*, Glenn Maxwell c Wiese b Varun 5 *(4b, 1x4)*, Mahipal Lomror c Russell b Varun 34 *(18b, 1x4, 3x6)*, Dinesh Karthik c Rinku b Varun 22 *(18b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Suyash Prabhudessai run out 10 *(9b, 1x4)*, Wanindu Hasaranga c sub (Anukul) b Russell 5 *(4b)*, David Willey (not out) 11 *(10b, 1x4)*, Vijaykumar Vyshak (not out) 13 *(8b, 1x6)*; Extras (lb-3, w-3): 6; Total (for eight wkts. in 20 overs): 179.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-31 (du Plessis, 2.2), 2-51 (Shahbaz, 4.4), 3-58 (Maxwell, 5.5), 4-113 (Lomror, 11.3), 5-115 (Kohli, 12.1), 6-137 (Prabhudessai, 14.5), 7-152 (Hasaranga, 16.5), 8-154 (Karthik, 17.3).

KNIGHT RIDERS BOWLING
Vaibhav 2-0-22-0, Umesh 1-0-19-0, Suyash **(Impact Player in place of Roy)** 4-0-30-2, Varun 4-0-27-3, Russell 4-0-29-2, Narine 4-0-41-0, Nitish 1-0-8-0.

Toss: RCB; **PoM:** Varun.
Knight Riders won by 21 runs.

Next assignment

KKR: April 29 **vs. GT**
Kolkata, 3.30 p.m.

RCB: May 1 **vs. LSG**
Lucknow, 7.30 p.m.

Royals will target a reversal of fortunes against an in-form Super Kings

P.K. Ajith Kumar
JAIPUR

The pilot on the Mumbai-Jaipur flight on Wednesday afternoon made an unusual announcement. "Whistle *podu*," he said.

Nobody quite blew the whistle inside the aircraft, but there was much joy to the large contingent of passengers from Chennai, all dressed in yellow.

The fans of Chennai Super Kings must be hoping their team continues, what has been a dream run, at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium on Thursday.

That match, against Rajasthan Royals, promises to be battle royale.

Much has happened since the two sides first met this season.

Royals nicked the game in Chennai by three runs. From their first five matches, Samson's men posted four victories and moved to the top.

Since then, Dhoni's Super Kings have posted five wins from seven games to move up the ladder, while Royals have slipped.

Fortunes change rapidly in the IPL. Royals must be desperate for a reversal of fortunes as they take on the in-form team.

Today's match

RR vs. CSK

Jaipur, 7.30 p.m.

HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 27
RR 12 | CSK 15

PREVIOUS MEETING
RR won by **three runs**, 2023

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD) & JIO CINEMA APP

CSK skipper M.S. Dhoni will be hoping his formidable batting line-up, featuring the likes of Ruturaj Gaikwad, Devon Conway and Ajinkya Rahane, who has been such a pleasant surprise this season, continues to roar.

Slow track

On what could be a slow track here, Dhoni could be banking on Ravindra Jadeja and the other spinners.

In R. Ashwin and Yuzvendra Chahal, the host has two top-class spinners, and left-arm seamer Trent Boult has been in splendid form too. The onus of putting enough runs on the board rests with captain Samson, Jos Buttler and Shimron Hetmyer.

Breathing fire: Rahane will be in the spotlight given the way he has been batting this season. PTI

We are not executing what we need to: Shane Bond

Lalith Kalidas
AHMEDABAD

Mumbai Indians bowling coach Shane Bond rued his team's abject bowling during the defeat to Gujarat Titans on Tuesday.

MI suffered its second consecutive defeat and slipped to the seventh spot after as many games, while the GT stormed to the second spot with its fifth win.

For a second game in a row, Rohit Sharma's bowlers lost the plot in the death overs.

"It was like a repeat from the last game. We're not executing what we need to. We've got pretty simple plans. Watching the way we bowl, we'll bowl in an area, get hit and then very quickly change. That's a disappointing thing. I thought that with [GT] at 100, we were right in the game, and then we just dished up freebies. We gave [David] Miller and [Abhinav] Manohar free hits, and once you give good players a chance to get in, they just take the game away," Bond said in a post-match press conference.

"If we could keep them to 180, it was going to be challenging in the first six overs. But we thought we could chase it down much like at Wankhede the other day, but we can't keep asking our batting line-up to chase 210 every game."

Rohit did not use Arjun Tendulkar in the death overs, and Bond suggested the latter's 31-run over against Punjab last week could have played in the captain's head.

"It probably was a factor. And again, if you're the captain, you bank on experience at the back end."

Talking tough: Shane Bond rues missed opportunities and feels bowlers need to stick to their plans. VIJAY SONEJI

Points Table

	M	W	L	PTS	NRR
Chennai Super Kings	7	5	2	10	0.662
Gujarat Titans	7	5	2	10	0.580
Rajasthan Royals	7	4	3	8	0.844
Lucknow Super Giants	7	4	3	8	0.547
Royal Challengers Bangalore	8	4	4	8	-0.139
Punjab Kings	7	4	3	8	-0.162
Kolkata Knight Riders	8	3	5	6	-0.027
Mumbai Indians	7	3	4	6	-0.620
Sunrisers Hyderabad	7	2	5	4	-0.725
Delhi Capitals	7	2	5	4	-0.961

After the RCB-KKR match on April 26

Karunaratne, Madushka hit tons in record opening stand

IRELAND IN SL

Agence France-Presse
GALLE

Dimuth Karunaratne and Nishan Madushka both hit centuries as they amassed a record Sri Lankan opening stand of 228 in the second Test against Ireland on Wednesday.

The hosts were 357 for one at the close, still 135 runs behind but with nine wickets in hand. Madushka was unbeaten on 149 at stumps, alongside Kusal Mendis on 83, after Karunaratne departed for 115 – the only wicket to fall on the third day. Captain Karunaratne reached his 16th century, and his second consecutive ton, in 116 balls.

The left-hander was caught at deep fine-leg in the last over before lunch. Their 228 was a record Sri Lankan opening stand at the ground, eclipsing the 193 between Marvan Atapattu and Sanath Jayasuriya against South Africa in 2000.

The scores: Ireland 492 vs Sri Lanka 357/1 in 77 overs (Madushka 149 batting, Karunaratne 115, Mendis 83 batting).

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